THE GUIDE

May 2011 | Issue 258 | theguide.greatbritishlife.co.uk

Precision timekeeping explored at the National Maritime Museum

Let's go outside

- HIT THE BEACH AT GREENWICH PENINSULA
- GREEN ROOFS BRING WILDLIFE TO LEWISHAM
- SONIA MURTON ON GARDEN FURNISHINGS

Lofty ambitions

Designer Ann Louise Roswald lives the high life in Canary Wharf

Henry Conway on fashion | Tom Parker Bowles on food | Kevin Haggarthy on motoring

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INSIDE THE GUIDE

LOCAL LIFE

9 NEWS
Arts, olympics and a beach?
10 HIGH SOCIETY
Fire-breathers and Magical You
12 ANN LOUISE ROSWALD
The Canary Wharf designer on kids, canals and loft living
15 PREVIEW
Hand-drawn London, Grand Designs Live and more...
17 KEEPER OF TIME
Deconstructing Greenwich's historical precision timekeepers
20 FERGUS NOONE
On good image composition and the rule of thirds

LIFESTYLE

25 SHOP FRONT
Hobbs fashion, Biba linens and London-inspired gifts
27 HENRY CONWAY
It's wedding season! Henry Conway tackles formal wear
28 THE LONDON LOOK
Jason Gale, London Lifestyle Awards founder, on why this year is bigger and better
31 NATURAL BEAUTY
Samantha Burlton on how to keep those tootsies tip top
33 THE FAST TRACK
Caught on camera: our new motoring writer Kevin Haggarthy

FOOD & DRINK

35 GOURMET NEWS
Boutique bakery Black Vanilla, gourmet on the go and stylish new Cornishware in SE10
37 TOM PARKER BOWLES
On how London town came to boast such an enviable international food scene
38 GUY AWFORD
Celebrate the best of British with Scottish salmon, English asparagus and Jersey Royals
39 EPICURE
Fine dining that hits the right note at The Piano Restaurant, The North Pole, Greenwich

FAMILY LIFE

43 FAMILY MATTERS
Playing pirates, playing out, playing dress up and playing with cleverly stylish toys
45 EDUCATION
Announcing the launch of the Archant Good Schools Show (16-17 September), founded to recognise the very best in British education
48 NATURE NOTES
Environmental consultant and naturalist Dusty Gedge on green roofs and how a patch of black felt can become an invaluable wildlife habitat

Our contributors this month

DUSTY GEDGE

Writer and environmental consultant Dusty Gedge endeavours to keep the local environment a little more wild

KEVIN HAGGARTHY

Motoring journalist Kevin Haggerthy joins the team this month to deliver local drive time news and reviews

LYNDA SYNGE

Blackheath-based Lynda Synge is a gardener and consultant, here to help you get the best from your garden each season

FERGUS NOONE

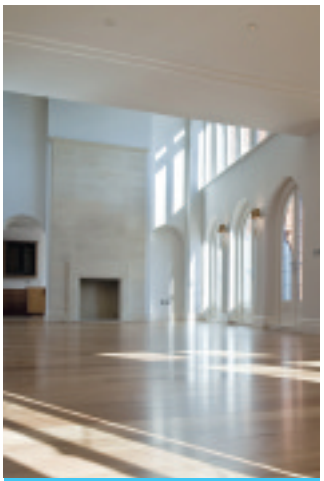
The Greenwich photographer coaches us through the complex realm of creative digital photography

this month

HOMES & GARDENS

49 STYLE COUNSEL
Sonia Murton extends her interiors expertise out into the garden. Take one concrete sofa, scatter about some brightly coloured cushions, add an outdoor rug and hit the lights for the perfect contemporary alfresco space

52 GREEN SPACE
Blackheath-based gardener and consultant Lynda Synge tackles two pesky flower-bed intruders – the snail and the aphid. It's time to roll those sleeves up and get dirty...



PROPERTY

61 HOMES & PROPERTY
Savills presents Chartham House, a head-turning modern masterpiece in Bromley BR2. Yours for a cool £4,750,000

71 MOVING TIMES
The hottest local properties on the market this month, on sale and to let from Blackheath to Bromley and Surrey Quays to Chislehurst

79 AGENT SPEAKS
Tim Basford, director of Kershaws, on the importance of a well-informed, local estate agent when buying a home

On the cover: The Meridian Line sculpture at the Royal Observatory, shot by Colin Crisford (www.colincrisford.co.uk)

TOM PARKER BOWLES

Food writer Tom Parker Bowles wakes up every morning thinking about food... Here, he shares his thoughts and feasts

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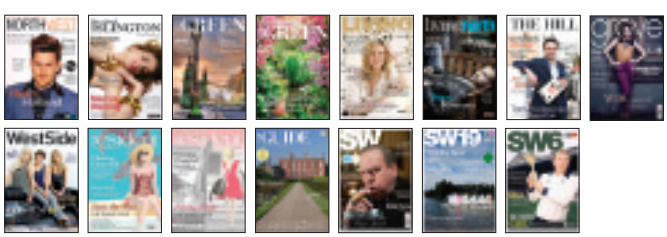
Lewisham (020 8297 1212)	*Lewisham* (020 8314 6000)	*Lewisham* (020 8314 6000)
Isle of Dogs (020 7515 1212)	*Tower Hamlets* (020 7364 5020)	*Tower Hamlets* (020 7364 5020)



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The new Cayenne range includes Cayenne from £42,990*, Cayenne Diesel from £45,256, Cayenne S from £55,058, Cayenne S Hybrid from £59,058 and Cayenne Turbo from £84,972. Fuel consumption figures for Cayenne Diesel in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 (8.7); Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6); Combined 38.2 (7.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 195.

*Tiptronic S

We're doing our best not to lose track of time this month, readers.

Since the clocks went forward to British Summertime at the end of March and the warmer weather has graced us with its presence, *The Guide*'s eager team of writers are keen to get us all out and about enjoying ourselves!

News writer Lee Cheshire has unearthed plans for a beach at Greenwich Peninsula – woo! He has also discovered that a new festival planned for Blackheath is proving a contentious issue, much like the plan to host the Olympic equestrian events in Greenwich Park – a stunning setting, but what damage will it cause, and where's the legacy? (And will free tickets to a test event make any difference to the angry populace?)

Speaking of the park, photography columnist Fergus Noone encourages us to get out there, SLR in hand, to get some good angles on the beautiful scenery right on our doorstep. (You can upload your pretty pictures to our website at theguide.greatbritishlife.co.uk if you like – go on, don't be shy...)

We also have urban ecologist Dusty Gedge on a quest to encourage wildlife in the most obscure of places – on a freight container, or a generator shed, for instance – while gardener Lynda Synge attempts to tame the creepy crawlies trying to take over your flower beds. And finally, interiors guru Sonia Murton takes the indoors out (a concrete sofa and a weather-proof rug, who'd have thunk it?), while natural beauty expert Samantha Burlton delivers DIY pedicure tips in good time for flip-flop season.

And so you see, there's not a second to waste! But if you seek loftier reasons to appreciate time, you'll find plenty at the Royal Observatory. Here, senior horologist for the National Maritime Museum, Jonathan Betts, has been painstakingly studying and refurbishing John Harrison's precision timekeepers, which were instrumental in solving the longitude problem.

All this leads us back to the beginning of time, or at least Prime Meridian, which is beautifully captured on our cover this month. Tick tock!

Victoria

Victoria Purcell
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NEWS*flash*

Lee Cheshire rounds up this month's local news and views

An artist's impression of Greenwich Park as it might look during the Olympics. © Populous

Olympic ticket giveaway

Thousands of people in Greenwich will be given free tickets to an Olympic test event in Greenwich Park this summer, in an attempt to assuage anger about holding the equestrian events here in 2012. Schoolchildren and members of local riding clubs will be given priority. The test event will see top riders compete in the 2,000 capacity arena in front of the National Maritime Museum. Locals fear the horses will damage the park, while equestrians have complained that there will be no legacy for the sport.

Greenwich beach?

Plans have been announced for a beach on Greenwich Peninsula. Peninsula Festival hopes to build an urban beach, inspired by schemes like Paris Plage, on disused land near North Greenwich tube. The beach would be in place from May to September and could start this year. For 2012, the organisation also plans an upmarket camping site for Olympic visitors, a stage area (the O2 will be unable to host music events during the games), and a marina.

See www.peninsula-festival.com

Festival divides locals

The future of the On Blackheath music event is still undecided. The Blackheath Society is appealing in court the decision by Lewisham Council to grant an alcohol license for the annual two-day festival on the heath. The event has divided locals. After our story last month, a spokesman for the Blackheath Society has pointed out that it is "far from alone in objecting to the event, and is supported in its appeal by many local residents, by no means confined to Society members, and by ward councillors in both Lewisham and Greenwich. The proposed concert has also been rejected twice by the Blackheath Joint Working Party." However, respondents to a poll on local news blog 853 were in favour of the event 305 to 39.

Pedestrianisation plans scrapped

Greenwich Council has abandoned plans to pedestrianise Greenwich town centre. The scheme involved closing College Approach and King William Walk to traffic, which was to be diverted on an enormous new gyratory system around Greenwich High Road and Norman Road, funded by Transport for London. Instead the council will concentrate on addressing local concerns about rat-running and access in and around the 2012 games. A statement said: "The Council's decision to suspend work on the scheme follows an indication by TfL that it wishes to carry out public consultation later in the year on a number of more wide-ranging traffic proposals."

Good news for local arts

Local arts organisations fared better than most in the recent Arts Council spending review. Although facing a budget cut of 15%, the Arts Council has increased funding to some, while cutting others completely. The Greenwich Dance Agency received a 42.6% real-terms increase in funding, from £254,832 in 2010/11 to £399,230. Greenwich & Docklands Festivals also did well, with a 33.4% increase. In Lewisham, The Albany theatre and performance poetry group Apples and Snakes received small cash increases (a slight real terms cuts), but hardest hit was poetry publishers Anvil Press, which had its funding cut by over a third.

News to share? Email us at yoursay@theguidemag.co.uk

Rosemary Lee's Common Dance, 2009 © Rachel Cherry

The Proud2 crowd goes wild for Mystery Jets

High society

Las Vegas-inspired clubbing and an Alice in Wonderland-themed tea party

Proud2 launches at the O2

VIP host Jodie Harsh

Spectacular circus performers entertained clubbers who danced the night away in celebration of the launch of Proud2. The decadent and glamorous destination nightspot proved it has enough wow-factor to entice night owls to North Greenwich with its Las Vegas-style clubbing. With stylish interiors and entertainment including live music, top DJs and even fire-breathers and trapeze artists, Proud2 ensures a dramatic and visual nightlife experience.

The O2, Peninsula Square SE10 ODX; 020 8463 3070
www.proud2.com

Mad as a hatter

Ladies sipped cocktails served in teapots and ate canapés labelled 'Eat Me' at an Alice in Wonderland-themed launch of Magical You, a new programme of workshops that aim to give women the tools to take charge of their lives. Catherine Berry, a born organiser, runs workshops on home, money, time, wardrobe and wellbeing. The wonderland theme continued as guests were given goody bags containing tiny bottles of sloe gin labelled 'Drink Me' to take home.

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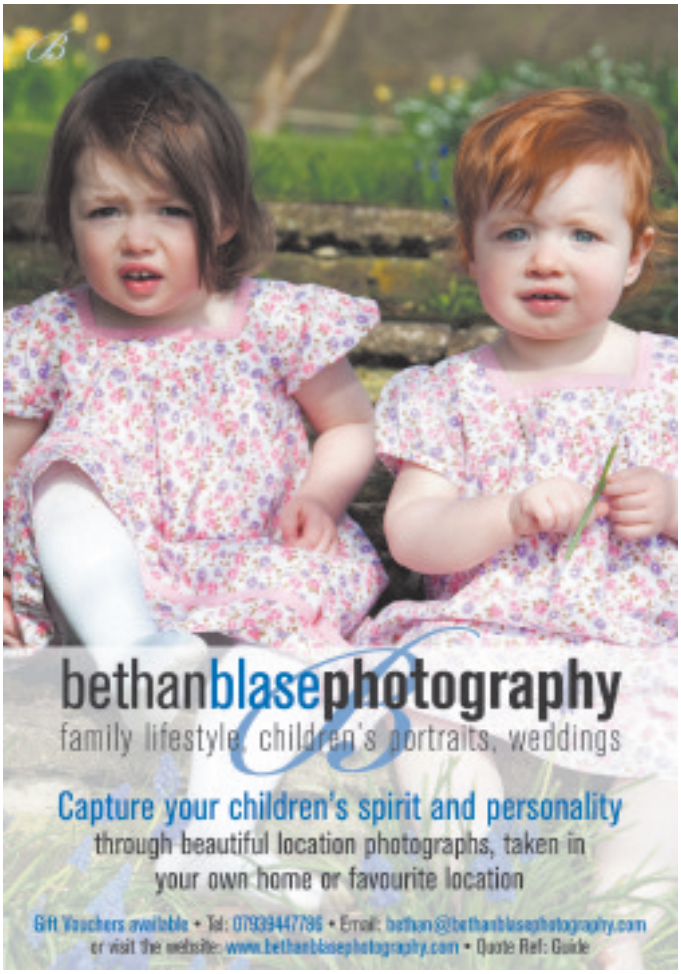

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GAVIN JOULE

Ann Lousie Roswald

Print WORKS

Shannon Denny talks to designer Ann Louise Roswald about creativity, loft living and Canary Wharf

Rack after rack of paper patterns occupy a whole room of Ann Louise Roswald's Old Street studio, and a vast array of colourful samples from past and future collections are organised in soldierly fashion in another.

"I always thought we'd have a little print studio somewhere, a cottage industry type thing," the designer says from behind a steaming mug of tea. The appeal of her work, however, means that the cottage industry dream never stood a chance, not since her degree show at Central St Martins shoved her into the spotlight and gave the label a following around the world.

Raised in Yorkshire, Ann Louise's grandmother was a painter, her Swedish dad made clogs and her mother worked as a dressmaker. "I come from a very creative home, really," she confides. From the age of four, she'd tell people she either wanted to be a fashion designer, an interior designer or a painter, and by the time she started her degree course she was still undecided.

"I came down to London to St Martins, and for some reason I'd read the guide wrong and went in to look at the fashion print course, rather than the fashion textiles course," she reveals. "So I went on their tour and I just fell in love with it." She developed a distinctive style that she says she subconsciously seemed to borrow from her heritage. "There is a Scandinavian look to a lot of my prints, but it was never intentional. I think I was just doing my own thing."

Whatever the inspiration, her creations immediately resonated with observers. "I still thought I'd just do textiles. I never thought I'd actually go into the fashion side," she remembers, "but then I got picked up from my degree show and Liberty said, 'Will you do us a collection?' I was like, 'Oh ok, right ok!' And I just naively set up straightaway."

She established the label in partnership with her husband Nick Hartley – himself a printmaker – and orders and accolades started flowing in. At the 1998 fashion week debut, her collection was snapped up by Barneys in New York and London's The Cross, while the British Fashion Council gave her the New Generation Award. Collaborations with Milan-based heavyweight Marni, high-street fixture Oasis and illustrator Natasha Law followed, not to

mention appearances at prestigious fashion weeks in New York and Singapore. With her clothing stocked internationally in over 100 boutiques and department stores, she's extended her offering into interiors as well, from fabrics to floor coverings.

Interiors are a growing focus, possibly influenced by the family's expanding portfolio of real estate. A cottage on the west coast of Ireland is a rural retreat complete with a print studio where Ann Louise plans to produce a line of wallpaper. Nick meanwhile is hard at work refurbishing another seaside home in Yorkshire, close to their families. And for the past 12 years, their domestic base has been a breathtaking canal-side loft near Canary Wharf.

The home is in the former factory that manufactured Spratt's dog biscuits, and the couple's considerable creative abilities were crucial in transforming it into something both habitable and stylish. "Oh my god, there weren't even electrics in it," Ann Louise says. "It was a new thing, this loft living. We moved in and we did it so quickly." It took 46 days in fact, but in spite of the speedy execution the refurbishment has held up, even with the addition of two children.

The neighbourhood has proved a perfect one for toddlers, too. "We jump on the DLR. My son is like, 'Can we go to Canary Wharf? I want to go to Wagamama!' So we go to Wagamama – a lot. I've tried to stop because it was sending me bankrupt. Before you know it you've spent I don't know how much taking your three-year-old out. We've discovered Wahaca as well. Those places are just great for kids, and it's good food."

We often walk along the canals to Limehouse. I love it – especially if the sun's gleaming on Canary Wharf

The waterfront is another source of entertainment. "We often walk along the canals to the park at Limehouse; we're always walking along the canals." And even when the kids aren't in tow, this is where Ann Louise heads to clear her thoughts. A runner, she covers routes that explore all the twists and turns to St Katherine's Dock. "I love it, I love it – especially if the sun's gleaming on Canary Wharf. You just see that skyline… it's pretty cool now, isn't it?"

For all this self-confessed appreciation for modernity in the form of slick cityscapes though, Ann Louise's collection these days embody a decidedly old-school aesthetic. "It's definitely old glamour. Grace Kelly, Ingrid Bergman – they're my muses in a way. It's just timeless. That's the whole point – that people will get something and hopefully it will stay in their wardrobe, it won't get slung out at the end of the season because it's just a fashion fad."

And in making clothes that people will want to wear again and again, the gratification on Ann Louise's part increases. After so many years in the business, she admits she gets a thrill in spotting her garments when she's out. "Oh it's brilliant. We were just at Shoreditch House at the weekend. There was a girl in one of our coats. And of course my husband said, 'My wife designed that!' It depends on the situation, but my husband will kill me if I don't say something to them," she laughs. "It does make me smile and feel really good; it's lovely." Which is appropriate, because so are the clothes.

www.annlouiseroswald.com

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The best events of the month ahead

PREVIEW

Hand-drawn London

From 21 April

Hand-drawn London at the Museum of London showcases 11 maps, all created based on individuals' experiences and perceptions of the city. The maps range from an amusing portrayal of London's toilets to a tree of Brixton's pubs and cafes and the nature of New Cross. They have been created by members of the public and are personal projections of their relationships with the capital's landscape. While you're there, check out *London Street Photography* to see the way people capture the capital has evolved from 1860 to today. Free.

150 London Wall EC2Y 5HN; 020 7001 9844
www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Explore Deptford Creek

22 May

The Creekside Centre in Deptford offers monthly low-tide guided walks along the Creek. Deptford Creek is home to over 120 species of wildflower, and wildlife ranging from the Chinese Mitten Crab to kingfishers. The next walk takes place on 22 May at 11am. Equipment provided. Adults £10, kids £5.

14 Creekside SE8 4SA; 020 8692 9922
www.creeksidecentre.org.uk

Grand Designs Live

30 April-8 May

DIY enthusiasts looking for inspiration can get tips from the experts at Grand Designs Live. Based on the Channel 4 TV series *Grand Designs*, presented by Kevin McCloud, Grand Designs Live is a show for anyone with an interest in design, build, interiors, shopping, homewares, gardens, kitchens, bathrooms, and innovation. The event features over 500 exhibitors showcasing quality products and innovations. Tickets £11.

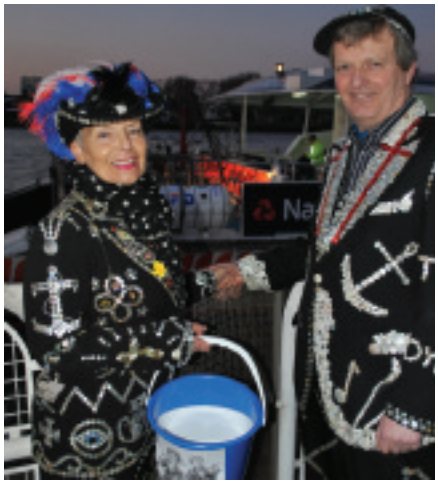
ExCel, Royal Victoria Dock E16 1XL; 0844 209 7349
www.granddesignslive.com

Latin American art

7-8 and 14-15 May

Deborah Esses, a member of the Blackheath Art Society, grew up in Argentina. In recognition of the growing popularity of Latin American art, she has chosen the theme *Keep Dancing* for her Spring Open Studio. Esses' style reflects elements of German expressionism and a post-impressionist love of observation, whimsy and sensuality. Dancers appear often in her work, and the pieces she has chosen for the Open Studios show figures exploring movement beyond borders and boundaries. 12-6pm on both weekends.

13 Halley Gardens SE13 5PA
www.deborahesses.com



Pearly fundraiser

14 May

To raise money for Mick's Appeal, which aims to fund a nurse for Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice, Gwen Jones, Pearly Queen of Greenwich, and Clive Bennett, Pearly Pride of Greenwich, are organising a Thames Riverboat Disco. Departing from Greenwich Pier at 7.30pm, the four-hour trip along the Thames will see guests treated to pie and mash, a Pearly sing-along with Pearly Kings and Queens, disco, auction and raffle. Tickets £12.50.

Greenwich Promenade SE10 3QT. To reserve tickets email pearlygreenwich@aol.co.uk

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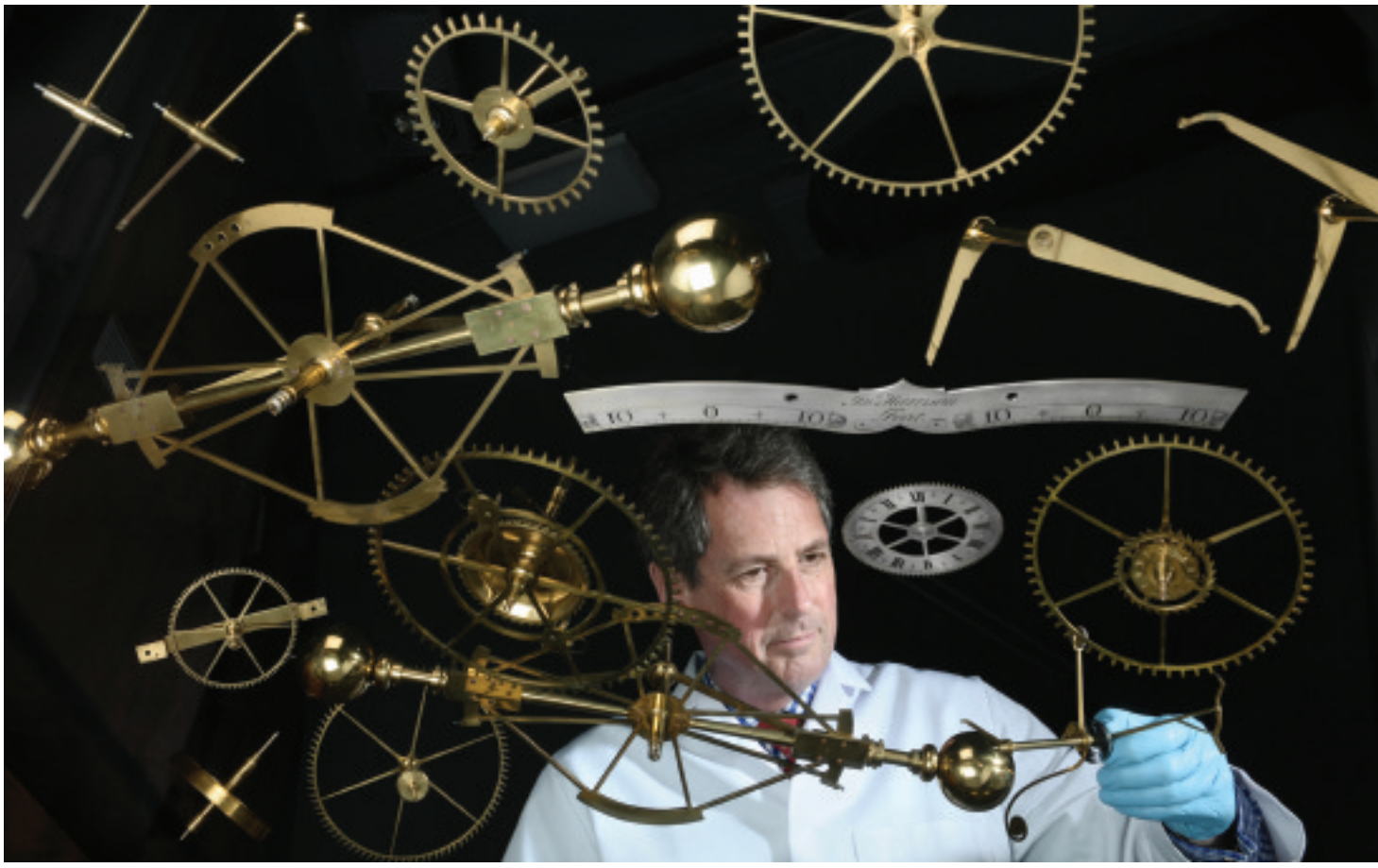


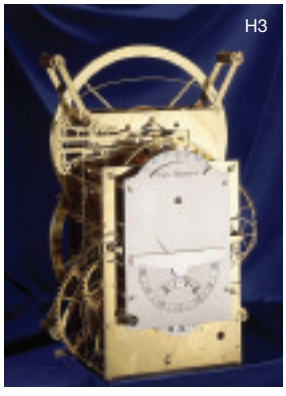
Clocking on

Ahead of the 300th anniversary of The Longitude Act, horologist Jonathan Betts takes a closer look at John Harrison's carefully crafted clocks. By **Victoria Purcell**

Time. Other than begrudging how quickly it disappears, most of us take it for granted – that tick-tocking of the hall clock is barely recognised. One man who certainly knows the value of a swinging pendulum, however, is Jonathan Betts, senior specialist in horology at the National Maritime Museum.

Jonathan is currently in the midst of a taking apart and studying one of the museum's most complex, and historically significant, timekeepers – H3. Invented – or it may be more accurate to say crafted – by John Harrison in response to the Longitude Problem, H3 is one of five timekeepers that he devoted most of his life to developing.

The problem of measuring longitude was a thorn in the side of early transoceanic sailors. Inaccuracies in measuring longitude had led to several tragedies at sea, and so The Longitude Act was established in 1714, offering a £20,000 prize for a simple and practical method for the precise determination of a ship's longitude.



Harrison, a joiner who crafted precision longcase clocks, did eventually solve the problem. In 1726 he set out to devise a portable clock that would keep time to the same accuracy. His work commenced with H1, the first portable timekeeper, progressing to H2, and H3, completing H4 in 1759, which eventually, after much wrangling with the Board of Longitude, (and making a fifth, H5), won him the prize.

"It's something that affects everybody's lives," says Jonathan, who is studying the museum's marine timekeepers and chronometers in preparation for the 300th anniversary of the Longitude Act in 2014. "But we do take it for granted today. It's all about discovering our world and discovering where we are in it." >>>>

© NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM / COLIN CRISFORD

<<<< The results of Jonathan's detailed studies will be made available in an academic catalogue, accompanied by beautiful illustrative photography, to be published in 2014. The research may also provide the basis for an exhibition. When we speak, Jonathan has already completed his studies of H1, 2 and 4. H3, which presents the biggest challenge in terms of its complexity, was left until last.

"H3 was not the solution, but the means by which Harrison realised where he'd gone wrong," he explains. "When Harrison first started designing clocks, large clocks were accurate and small watches inaccurate, so all of them thought it had to be big. But the critical thing was that, while big clocks go well when you screw them to the wall, a pendulum doesn't work so well when you start moving it about – especially on a ship.

"H3 is so complex because Harrison was struggling with it and kept adapting and adding parts to try and get it to keep time," he continues. "He learnt a great deal when working on it. It wasn't a waste of time [Harrison dedicated 19 years to H3]. There are two very important inventions in the design: the first is the bimetal strip, which is effectively what's in thermostats and makes your electric kettle switch off and toast jump out of the toaster; the second is the caged roller bearing, which is the father of the ball bearing. Both of these inventions are now in existence in their billions, and it can all be traced back to Harrison."

H3 was last taken apart by the Ministry of Defence's chronometer department in 1976 for an exhibition marking 200 years since

Jonathan Betts gets to grips with H3...

...as a portrait of John Harrison watches over proceedings

Harrison's death. With modern technology at his disposal, meaning he can measure everything down to the micron, one wonders if Jonathan has made any new discoveries? "A close study of the caged roller bearings was an eye opener – they look even more extraordinarily modern than we expected. They could easily have been made in the 20th century. We knew it was beautifully made and finished, but we hadn't realised how accurately. There's a great deal of debate over whether Harrison made H4 and H5 himself because they are so tiny – it's a different skill, a great skill – but just the evidence found in H3 suggests that H4 and H5 were made by Harrison himself.

"The extraordinary thing about the large machines is that they run without any lubrication," he says, "so they never go wrong, they just keep working. These have each run for nearly 50 years without any attention and there are virtually no signs of wear on them – from that you can infer that they could run for 800 years."

The process seems incredibly painstaking, but to Jonathan, whose father and grandfather were both watchmakers, "It's an absolute joy!"

"It's pretty awe-inspiring and there are times when you see all the parts – it has more than 1,200 pieces – and when you see them all laid out on the bench it's just amazing. And since H1, H2 and H4 all went back together again, it's looking pretty good for H3..."

H3 will go back on display alongside H1, H2 and H4 in early May
For further information on Harrison, the longitude problem and the National Maritime Museum, see www.nmm.ac.uk

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In the frame

Greenwich photographer **Fergus Noone**'s tips on good image composition

In every photograph we take, we already make judgments on how certain subjects fit into the frame. Cropping comes naturally in this sense, but other elements will decide what makes your photograph truly stunning. The best composed shot is one that follows what is known as the rule of thirds. By dividing the image up into three, a photographer can find an equal balance within the frame and decide on further elements like viewpoint, cropping and finding diagonal lines. These lines can bend and help the viewer move their eyes along the photograph.

If we take my image of the Old Royal Naval College as an example, the staircase in front of The Queen's House acts as a natural diagonal line that moves your eyes to the ground, while the path leads you to the horizon line to meet with Canary Wharf, juxtaposed with the old architecture of the college. The path that runs horizontally acts as a way of dividing the picture in half, while the sky and the stairs in the foreground complete the rule of thirds composition. We are left with a balanced shot of a cityscape during a part of the day when, luckily, there is a dramatic sky!

The Old Royal Naval College

Greenwich is the perfect location to find interesting angles, whether it is in the natural landscape of the park, by the shore of the Thames or through the colonnades of its classic architecture. Don't be afraid to fill the frame and avoid leaving too much empty space. Use your macro settings discussed in the last issue and experiment with texture and abstract forms; it can be easily done with plants, trees or any inanimate object. Remember the rule of thirds with sweeping landscapes and be aware of the sky when the sun sets to enhance the drama of the photograph.

Composition is only one of the various aspects within the medium, the most important being light. So try, if you can, to get out during those golden hours – early morning or early evening.

Fergus Noone runs photography tuition workshops to help you achieve beautiful results, call 020 8858 3309 for information or visit the gallery at 9 College Approach SE10 9HY; www.fergusnoone.com

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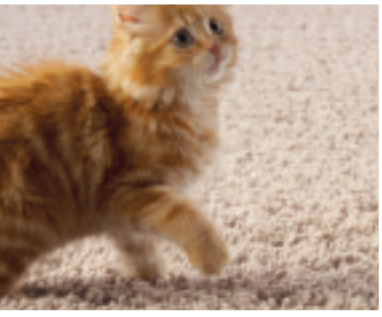

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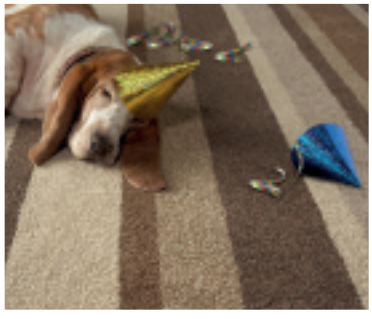

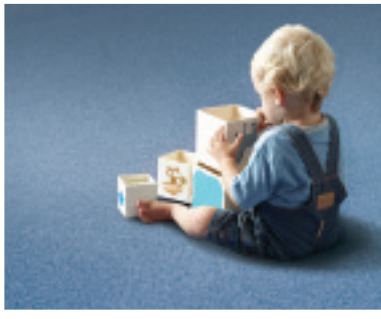

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MAP HAND-DRAWN BY HARTWIG BRAUN OF ARTY GLOBE; WWW.ARTYGLOBE.COM

Summertime Greenwich

It's GMT +1 and the sun is starting to shine – now is the perfect time to get out and enjoy the best of SE10

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Proudly traditional, Bianco 43 Pizzeria Ristorante has a fiercely loyal following. Open daily from lunch until late, you'll be hard pushed to find any local foodie who doesn't make at least a monthly trip here. Having kitted out the kitchen in the very best gear, including a wood-fired pizza oven, the Bianco 43 kitchen team prides itself on its authentic food.

43 Greenwich Church Street SE10 9BL
020 8858 2668; www.bianco43.com

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The North Pole Bar & Restaurant now has a quirky way of getting you there – its own London taxi! As long as you live locally (approx 3 miles) they are more than happy to collect you for your meal, or just to have a drink. Just give them a call and they'll take you to the Pole!

131 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA
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Pay a visit to Buenos Aires Cafe. You'll find high quality food served simply – fresh French breads, croissants, cakes, savouries like Argentinean empanadas, quiche and antipasti, and homemade Italian-style ice cream. The cafe is preparing to open on those balmy summer evenings - choose from our wines or bring your own (corkage charge). Outside catering is also available.

86 Royal Hill SE10 8RT; 020 8488 6764
www.buenosairesltd.com

Greenwich Theatre

As well as high-profile performances, Greenwich Theatre regularly showcases ground-breaking new theatre. Opening this May, the theatre's first Emerging Artists mini-season has a distinctly international flavour. *Pakita* (27-28 May) is a one-woman Spanish thriller, American gay rights drama *The Temperamentals* (1-2 June) transfers from Dublin, and on 3-4 June, a comic take on Ovid's *Metamorphoses* arrives from New York.

Crooms Hill SE10 8ES; 020 8858 4447
www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk

Hola Paella

Everyone at Hola Paella, Greenwich Market, would like to say a huge thank you to all of the customers through the doors since its opening in December. Greenwich's newest deli, Hola Paella's product range has increased continuously and the wine bar is developing, too. Now opening late every Thursday, Friday and Saturday with wine, beer and charcuterie platters – pop in on your way home!

Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ

The Hill

The Hill boasts some of the best Mediterranean food London has to offer. The restaurant, now under new management, has a new menu and new bar and tapas area. Enjoy a huge selection of Argentinean malbecs with beautifully cooked Argentinean meat. A two-course lunch special runs Monday to Friday, with a glass of wine, a beer or juice for only £14.95.

89 Royal Hill SE10 8SE; 020 8691 3626
www.thehillgreenwich.com

Mogul

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10 Greenwich Church Street SE10 9BJ
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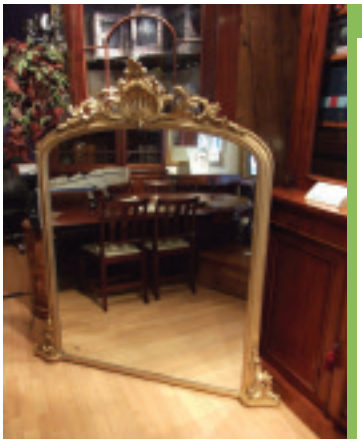

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Shannon Denny's top tips on what's good to give and to get this month

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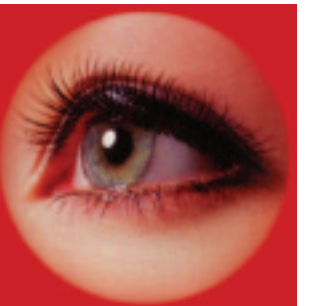

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THE MAIN EVENT

Henry Conway tackles fashion's Kryptonite – formal wear

Spring has finally arrived after an exceptionally long dark winter, and though sad to pack away the furs, my excitement at wearing my silver silk tunic is nearly too much to bear. The heralding of a new season in fashion, and a busier social front, comes with fresh sartorial pressures. Even the most experienced socialite can feel this trans-seasonal pressure. As the season's formal invitations start hitting the doormat, the minefield of event style etiquette begins.

Most big social occasions don't gather pace until May and June, but with royal wedding fever spreading through the city, more people have been asking my advice on dressing 'appropriately'. Formal occasions seem to strike fear into the most sensible of girls and boys, people who in everyday life scrub up well suddenly glaze over with abject terror and question everything. It's as if attending a formal event is fashion Kryptonite, evaporating confidence.

Don't panic – you are not on *X Factor*, there will be no panel to judge you as you arrive into the church, marquee or ballroom. Cheryl's only possible input will be as a picture on the side of your Elnett can (carry a mini one everywhere, she's a comforting talisman).

Weddings in particular terrify people, but with a few simple rules, they shouldn't be such a horror. I have been clocking an average of seven a summer, and have been on call to calm, reassure and console! Spring weddings should be seen as an opportunity to experiment for the slog of summer ones. Girls, the key is to keep it simple, as over-complication can end up looking like fancy dress, or worse, like you lost a battle with a peacock (a warning against OTT fascinators). Embrace layering to take you from day to evening and do not overlook separates – Carolina Herrera is a one-woman masterclass on how to rock a 1950s crisp white shirt with either a full ball skirt or skater for a younger look.

Guys have it easy, we have standard outfits – the morning coat for traditional weddings (no cravats though boys), black tie for American-style weddings and evening dos (no wing collars, and a real bow tie), or a suit for the less formal, European wedding.

For an expert opinion, I dropped in on young designer Emilia Wickstead at her minimalist Pont Street Atelier. Wickstead's simple classics, tailored in the style of 60s and 70s formalwear, made to measure, have made her a natural choice for stylish First Ladies, and Samantha Cameron has chosen a Wickstead for most of her big occasions thus far. Bets are that Emilia has whipped up a royal wedding-wonder for SamCam too, and what 'veh' good taste the PM's missus has. I asked Emilia what advice she could give to wedding guests: "Today women can certainly get away with wearing more fashion-forward pieces, rather than just the traditional suit or dress for formal events. I admire women who make fashion statements of any kind as it displays someone's character, class and style".

Though style rules are increasingly being relaxed for events, don't be tempted to frighten the horses. Even if covering your shoulders in church, or the Catholic insistence of sleeves on wedding dresses, has been pretty much stamped out, getting out one's boobs will not cut the mustard with the grandparents. Restraint, ladies, is vital. If you are husband hunting at your BFF's wedding, a little left to the imagination will go a long way. I love the elements of sheer incorporated into formal wear at the moment – both covering and revealing.

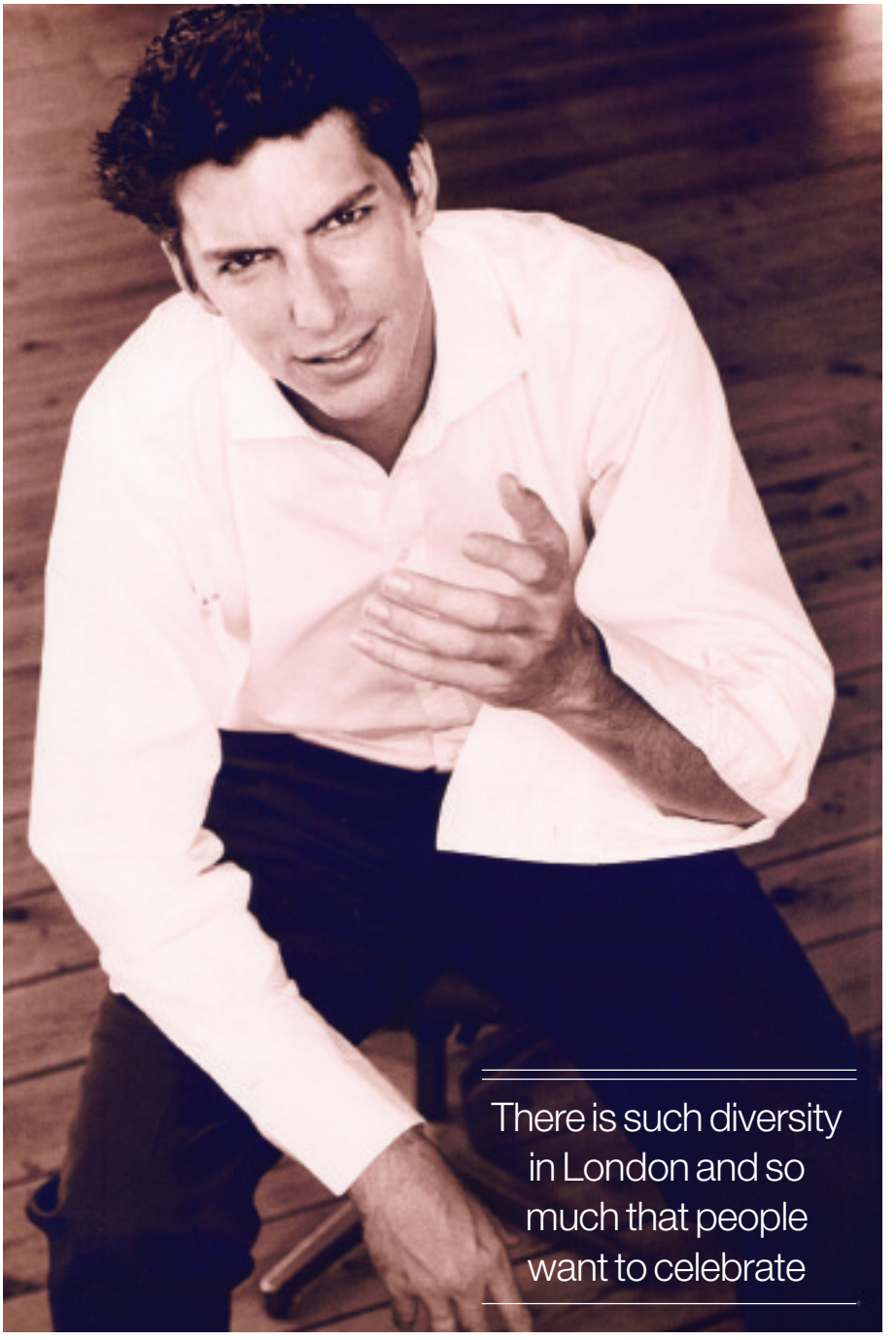
Emilia Wickstead 2011 collection

Taking what is appropriate and pushing it gently is key to fashionable formal wear. At the engagement party of my old friend Tom Crane and Sarah Harding, Sarah showed us how to do it. She looked spectacular in a floor length V-strapped black dress and sequined heels – old-school Hollywood glamour, enough vamp to give it edge, yet remaining the epitome of class. If you keep it simple and embrace the look with gusto, you can't go wrong. (Stylish restraint gave me a wide berth the day after that party – concealer, sunglasses and coffee held me together for 24 hours.)

At the Brompton Club, I helped host a birthday party for the jeweller Stephen Webster's wife Assia. The Brompton has a strict dress code, which the rock 'n' roll art crowd got round brilliantly – black open shirts and sharp tailoring for the boys, piles of jewellery from both sexes. Stephen gave a wonderful speech on how Assia was the most beautiful woman he knew, and we were all in floods of tears. I was compering the jazz night, and singing a bosa nova version of *Sex Bomb* to Tracey Emin has to be one of the oddest things I've done. Naturally, I whipped out a bit of *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* for the well baubled crowd, but I should have known better than to attempt Shirley Bassey's *Big Spender* – I had to give up halfway through. Still, at least I was dressed appropriately.

GALE force

The London Lifestyle Awards returns after a successful first year, again with The Guide as partner. **Mark Kebble** asks founder Jason Gale what's next



There is such diversity in London and so much that people want to celebrate

I am feeling a little guilty. Just minutes after grumbling about public transport and a frustrating group of tourists, Jason Gale is reflecting on all that is positive about London. "I was introduced to Bill Clinton and he just eulogised about what a great city London was. I thought, if he thinks it's amazing, why does my mate moan about it so much?"

It was when meeting the ex-President of the US that Jason was inspired to bring to reality a dream of his. "I am not from London, I am from Yorkshire, but I have been here for 13 years now and I love the place," says our tall, amiable interviewee. "The city is fantastic, but for the last couple of years I haven't felt as though Londoners celebrate it enough."

The solution? The London Lifestyle Awards. The inaugural event took place on 7 October 2010, at the Riverbank Park Plaza and was a huge success. "The awards were taken very seriously," Jason says. "There were over 100,000 public votes, which we were really pleased about. I was delighted by how Londoners took it to their hearts."

Like all good follow-ups, this year's event will be bigger and better. "I feel we have been given a mandate to make it bigger because London was behind us," Jason points out. "There is such diversity in London and so much that people want to celebrate." Hence why we have new categories this year – over to you Jason…

London Bar of the Year

"When you think of London, you do think about the great bars we have got. We have got the best mixologists, our service is pretty good, our design is superb and we have great variety. Last year we had nominations for bars like Walkabout and Wetherspoons, and on the other side the style bars. That's what is great about London and the bar scene – we have this wonderful cross section."

London Club of the Year

"Not a month goes by without a new club opening, although we do struggle a bit with licensing laws in central London. Over the last year we have seen a real development in not just having a DJ with people dancing and drinking, we're seeing live entertainment like burlesque and circus activities."

London Member's Club of the Year

"This is a new category. Last year we linked all the clubs together, but it was difficult to judge a nightclub against member's clubs. Crazy Bear won club of the year because it did exceptionally well in the public vote and members loved the service. But we did find it difficult to judge that alongside a venue like Café du Paris, which puts on a great club night. So we have separated the two."

London Restaurant of the Year

"Restaurants are so important to any international city. Ten years ago restaurants

in London were frowned upon, but now we have such an eclectic mix. That's happened because of our multi-cultural society. We have embraced different cultures more than any other city in the world, and people have come from these countries, set up restaurants and educated us in their type of food."

London Hotel of the Year

"This is going to be tough this year. We have had five major new hotels open this year and a multi-million pound refurbishment of The Savoy. I don't think we've always been the best, but over the last couple of years this has improved a great deal."

London Fashion Retailer of the Year

"When you come to London, you shop during the day, you go for drinks and a meal, then you go to the theatre. Shopping is a huge part of London life."

London Coffee Shop of the Year

"When I first came to London 13 years ago, coffee shops didn't really exist. Then we had the Starbucks phenomenon and we got used to drinking coffee. What Starbucks did was to build the market so that independent coffee shops could come in. On every street corner now you have a coffee shop."

Green Contribution to London

"We have to make sure whatever we are doing, we are not killing the planet. We heard about a lot of green initiatives last year and what we are looking for is not the one that is necessarily the biggest green initiative, but the companies who are trying to make it easier for businesses to become greener."

London Music Venue of the Year

"A couple of years ago this was something that was sadly lacking in London. We needed the O2, which won it last year. They are attracting the world's best musicians, which opens a space for other venues to thrive in two ways: musicians, while they are here, might go and play smaller gigs, and when they are playing at the O2, there are opportunities for smaller musicians to play at other venues."

London Beauty Salon of the Year

"People in London take more care of themselves than anybody else in the UK. Because London is so busy, a hectic and tiring environment, they seem to provide these oases of calm and reinvigoration."

London Sports Attraction of the Year

"Last year this was won by Polo in the Park. What impressed us about it is they have brought what is seen as the sport of kings, something that's not achievable to everyday Londoners, and made it achievable and a fantastic weekend. It is a major fixture in our sporting calendar now."

London Cultural Attraction of the Year

"It was a weird one last year because we picked a load of elephants! Some 8 million people saw [the Elephant Parade]. They were great – it raised awareness and was a fantastic attraction. We should have more random installations happening on the streets that make you stop, look and enjoy."

London Hair Salon of the Year

"We have the best hairdressers in the world. We have great cutting-edge hairdressers, but when you go into a salon now you expect a certain type of service and, nine times out of 10, you get that."

London Theatre Show of the Year

"You have two major places in the world for theatre: Broadway and the West End. We have great actors who learn their trade on the stage and we have got a thriving theatre scene. This is the flagship of London and is almost our Eiffel Tower: theatre is what people come to London to see and they very seldom let us down."

London Health and Fitness Facility of the Year

"We all need to get fitter! It has become very much part of our lifestyle over the last five to 10 years. I spoke to a lot of people about why they go to the gym and it's to enjoy their life more. We are looking for businesses, whatever level of market they are, who are trying to give their customers the best service, product and facilities."

London Personality of the Year

"Another new category this year. The English are known for their eccentricity and our office has celebrated different people even if we don't know their names. For instance, there is this guy who walks around Soho and we call him the best dressed man in London – if I stopped seeing him, I would miss him! This isn't celebrating a particular celebrity, but the people who really make up London. There is no point having the best facilities without the people who make it happen."

AND THE LOCAL WINNERS IN 2010 WERE…

London Food Market of the Year
Borough Market

London Cultural Attraction of the Year
Elephant Parade

London Live Music Venue of the Year
The O2

Best Green Contribution to London
Recycle for London

Outstanding Contribution to London
95.8 Capital FM's Help a London Child

London Concierge Company of the Year

"The final new category for this year. When concierge services first came in, they were there for the elite. More and more, this has become achievable to the average Londoner. Concierge services are doing two things: they are helping Londoners to enjoy London more, and they are also helping people coming into London to see it properly and introduce them to a lot of attractions across the board."

Outstanding Contribution to London

"Last year this was won by Help a London Child, which is a charity that has done fantastic work for years and years. I don't know if this award will always go to a charity, it might be a person or a company. It's the category I look forward to most."

Nominations close on 15 June, so get involved and vote for your local stars at www.londonlifestyleawards.com
The judging committee then creates a shortlist before public voting opens in July

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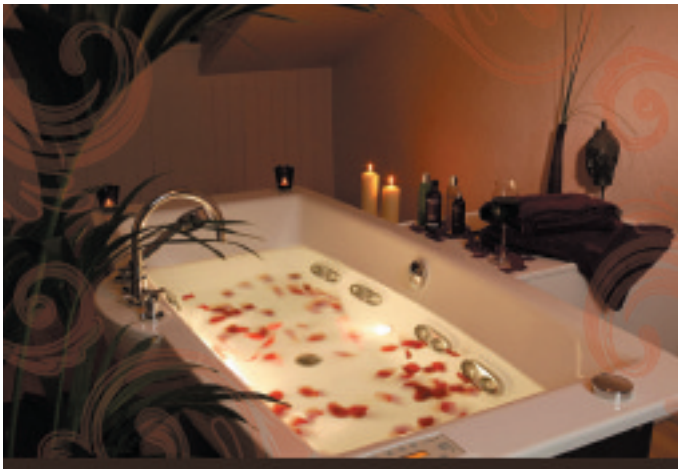

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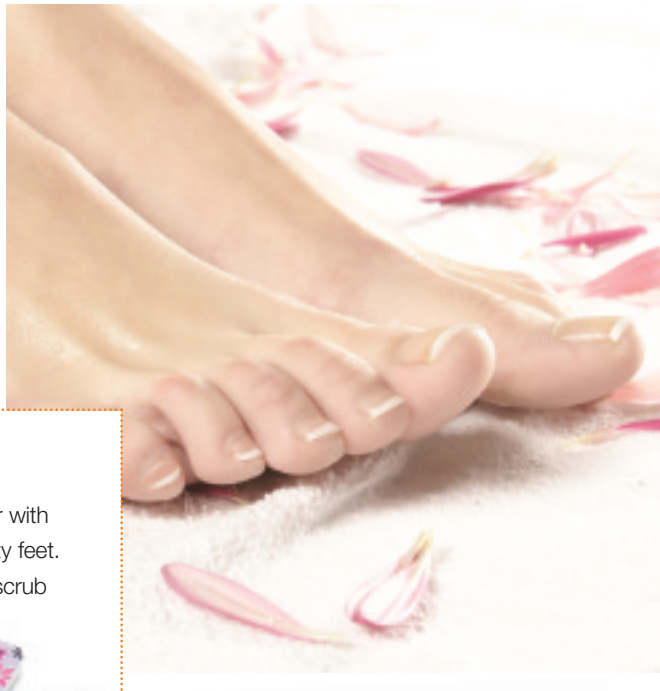
Natural beauty

So Organic founder **Samantha Burlton** on how to keep your tootsies looking tip top this summer



A TREAT FOR FEET

Following my tips below should help to keep your feet in great condition, but there's nothing like the feeling of silky smooth feet after a pampering pedicure. Schedule in one a month to keep your feet looking fabulous all summer long. Indulge in So Organic's new Pinks Boutique Himalayan Luxury Pedicure. It's an hour-and-a-half all-over body treat with a reflexology-inspired signature massage and certified organic products with the uplifting fragrances of peppermint, eucalyptus, lavender and geranium. Try it in May for the special price of £60 – a saving of £15.

Give yourself a home pedicure

1. Apply cuticle cream before soaking for a few minutes in a bowl of warm water with a few drops of bath soak or essential oil. Sage is a great option for hot, sweaty feet.
2. File your feet with a foot file or pumice to remove hard skin, then use a body scrub to exfoliate the feet and all the way up to your knee.
3. Rinse and dry your feet and legs before applying foot cream or a rich body lotion.
4. Clip nails straight across and file the edges smooth.
5. Use an orange-wood stick to gently push back your cuticles, then massage in a few drops of cuticle oil.
6. Buff the nails or apply a nail polish.

EVERY NIGHT

Keep a tube of foot cream by your bed (try Weleda's Skin Food, winner of Best Skincare Product at the Ethical Living Awards 2010, available from So Organic for £8.50) and use it every night before you go to sleep. This daily dose of nourishment will help keep feet smooth. Make it part of your bedtime routine and you won't forget.

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If you have serious problems with your feet, this is the place to go to get them sorted out professionally by a team of chiropodists and podiatrists.

If you have any questions on concerns about any aspect of beauty and skin care drop me an email on beauty@soorganic.com. I'd love to help.

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Susan and Laura Bottomley are delighted to be back in Blackheath and are available by appointment for Interior Design consultations.

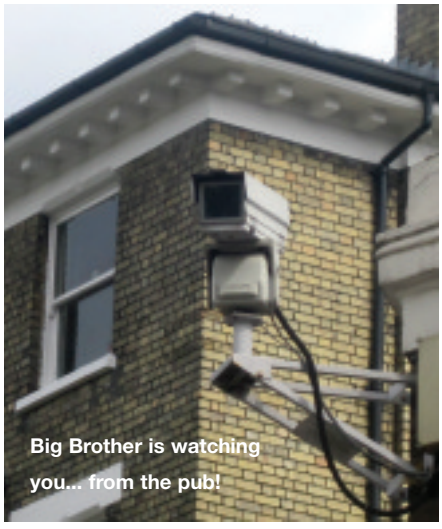
Interior designers in Blackheath since 1980

Drive time

Kevin Haggarthy, The Guide's new motoring columnist, senses Big Brother's watchful eye over Blackheath…

George Orwell's *1984* has come true to life in Blackheath. Just take a look over The Railway pub on Tranquil Vale and you'll see Big Brother watching your every move – via CCTV. Step out of line with your parking, and Big Brother will slap you with a big parking fine.
How do I know? I've been punished!

A month or two ago I received a rather official-looking letter through the post with a picture of my car, telling me I parked somewhere I have never been to in my life. I swore my car had been cloned (ie someone sticks your number plate on their identical car to avoid fines), so I rang the police to report the 'crime', only to find that I was indeed the culprit – turns out I had 'parked' my car for about 2.5 seconds while I rushed over to the bank to get my daily rashens from the hole in the wall. Embarrassing.



Big Brother is watching you... from the pub!

Sextuplets

It was the same story for my mate 'Jim', a village resident who was up in arms when he received a photograph of his car (plus fine) for driving down the bus lane on Montpelier Row at the wrong time of day. At one time, most people ignored the peak time restrictions, unless local Bobbies Bill and Ben (as I call them) were waiting at the corner. Even then your practised "what me, officer?!" expression was enough to make them apologise for even asking you about it, especially when you deliver the Excuse Of The Century – "My wife has just had sextuplets officer, I wasn't thinking".

Playing Tag

My favourite village parking game used to be to play 'tag' with the traffic wardens. The challenge was to park in a pay metre slot without paying, and then dash in and out of Costas for the morning coffee before getting caught. As 'the game' normally entailed constantly leaving the queue to check if anybody was giving me a ticket, I found it was taking about half an hour to buy my coffee. Even worse, I sometimes ended up actually getting a ticket! Let's just say I've had some very expensive coffees.

On a Saturday it gets even more exciting, when your car is 'marked' and the Big Brother squad keeps an eye on you – typically hiding in shop entrances until you pop out for a minute, when they quickly dash out to give you a ticket. Sneaky.

Cleansed

The game soon lost its appeal, and it was time to put the thinking cap on about how to avoid Big Brother's 'thought police' making my life hell. And then, on a bright Sunday morning, laying on the grass on the Heath, eureka! The solution came! Travel with enough change in your pocket, put your money into the metre for the length of time you intend to stay, and enjoy the village stress free! It even works out cheaper.

So every time I go into Blackheath these days, I drive straight into the car park behind the library, take a tape measure to make sure I park inch-perfect in the parking bay and put loads of money in the machines. After that I keep my eyes open for the thought police (sorry, traffic wardens), and greet them with a smile.

And when I drive up Tranquil Vale, even behind the wheel of a 450bhp, 180mph road gobbler, I keep my speed to 20mph so I can get that rather funny-looking, illuminated matchstick-man mounted on the lamp post to smile at me. Call me 'reformed' or 'cleansed' if you like… in fact, you can even call me Winston.

Kevin takes the new BMW 6 Series for a spin...

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Gourmet news

The month's most delicious food news

Gourmet to your door

Fast lives often mean fast foods, but Chislehurst-based nutritionist Bethany Eaton puts healthy eating within reach with a new gourmet delivery service. Nu You Living delivers bespoke, freshly-prepared meals – from breakfast through to dinner and snacks – anywhere within the M25 and North Kent. Nu You Living's menu, which makes the most of seasonal Kent produce, includes raw chocolate superfood muesli and Thai vegetable green curry. £35.95 per day for five days.

Call 020 8295 3443 or see www.nu-youliving.co.uk

Sweet and light

Black Vanilla. Even the name is delicious. Swing by the new Blackheath boutique bakery and gelateria for a proper coffee or linger over a rich red velvet cake with decadent cream-cheese frosting… Or, since summer's here, you might want to keep it light with a pineapple and passionfruit frozen yoghurt or a tiramisu gelato – the former is fat free and the latter has 50% less fat than traditional ice cream, hurrah!

32 Tranquil Vale SE3 0AX; 020 8852 0020
www.black-vanilla.com

Easy breezy

Bert & Betty continues its quest to source stylish, functional products that are a pleasure to make a mess with in the kitchen. Take the new Cornishware range, with its classic blue-and-white stripe that evokes that easy, breezy coastal vibe. Find garlic keepers, traditional pudding basins, jugs, eggcups and mugs… all beautifully boxed to make ideal gifts.

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Fantastic offers not to be missed in the **North Pole Piano Restaurant**. Try out the early bird set menu at only £14.95 (two courses, available from 6pm), or the weekend set is priced at £25, ideal for larger groups! On Sunday's enjoy a traditional roast (three courses for £16.95). The stylish private dinning room is available for hire and prefect for all occasions!

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GLOBAL DINING

Tom Parker Bowles takes a culinary tour of London's international food scene

It's just after 10 on a sultry summer's night and the street is coming alive. Small groups of men, dressed in Shalwar qumeez, sit on pavement tables, smoking shisha and drinking coffee as thick as crude oil. Arab pop blares out from tinny speakers, accompanied by the constant cacophony of car horns. The air is hazy with smoke, clouds of scented tobacco and the sweet delight of charcoal grilled lamb.

Spices, too, scent the scene; allspice, cinnamon, fenugreek and sumac. Shops spill their wares onto the pavement; pert pomegranates, sticky dates, great bushels of parsley and glossy aubergines. Trays stuffed full of sticky sweet baklava vie with great chunks of nut-studded halva to beguile the passing punter. This is a scene found from Beirut to Bagdad, Tripoli to Tehran, save for one small detail – the black cabs and red buses thundering by. It's not the Middle East, but Edgware Road.

London has always embraced the alien, from the moment of its birth as a Roman garrison on the Thames back in 50AD. OK, so the Romans were invaders rather than immigrants, but troops were drawn from across their Empire; Italians and Syrians, Spanish and Germans. The Normans came next and, a few hundred years later, London wallowed in the fruits of the Empire: tea from India and Caribbean sugar and spices from the East. The 19th century saw a great wave of Italians settle, followed by Catholic Irish, Germans and, from the 1880s, Ashkenazi Jews fleeing Russian persecution. Without this last group, there would be no salt beef, London Cure Smoked Salmon or even fish and chips.

As the Empire crumbled, Indians and Bangladeshis arrived, alongside Australians and people from the Caribbean isles. Joining them were Koreans and Japanese, Chinese and Malays, Poles and Hungarians. They all laid down roots, became Londoners and added their culinary footprint. Immigration is what made London great. It also makes it a fine place for the serious eater. You can travel the globe without leaving the M25. Breakfast of congee in Chinatown; a brief sojourn north for Injera and kitfo at Lalibela, in that little corner of Tufnell Park that is forever Ethiopia; and east to Turkey via Dalston for dinner at Mangal II. These are not just ersatz approximations of ethnic food, toned down for the timid Western palate, but places that would shine in Hong Kong, Addis Ababa and Istanbul.

Ironic as it may sound, Britain's lack of a healthy food culture means we eat better. Not our own national food (with some notable exceptions), but everyone else's. Londoners eat with an open mind, embracing food in its every guise. Of course, you can eat like a king in Paris and Lyon, too. As long as you stick to French food. The same goes for Naples and Rome, Madrid and Barcelona. Why, goes the thinking, do we need to feast on foreign foods when we have so much on our doorstep already? London is unfettered by such concerns.

You often find brilliance in the most incongruous of areas. Who would have thought that New Malden, a terraced south west London suburb, would be home to the Europe's largest population of expatriate Koreans? At Su La, the food is every bit the equal of the best in Seoul; crisp, pungent kimchee, luscious seafood and spring onion pancakes, and marinated beef ribs cooked at a brazier on the table. A few miles to the north and you'll find Japanese heaven in Acton. In among the specialist supermarkets and fish wholesalers used to be the finest sushi place in town, Sushi Say. There were only 15 or so seats, but the food was exquisite. The local Japanese wouldn't settle for anything less. Sadly, it was sold last year and standards dropped. Kiraku, a few doors down, is still well worth the trip out.

It's always been the same, this multi-cultural London, since the very beginning. It's what defines London. The Polish delis, Spanish tapas bars, Indian markets and Turkish grills are every bit as authentically 'London' as Beefeaters and Pearly Queens. It makes you proud to live here. And, for the eternally greedy, delighted. Nowhere else on earth will the trencherman find such variety. London is truly the greatest eating city of them all. ●

Guy Awford

Celebrate the best of British with this recipe for poached Scottish salmon with English asparagus and Jersey Royals

May is a great month for British produce. English asparagus and Jersey Royals are in full swing, Scottish seafood is at its best, and spring lambs are tender and full of flavour. It's less rosy in the fruit department; gooseberries are on their way, but that's it.

With an abundance of such great produce, the emphasis should be on simple, well executed dishes that allow the quality of the ingredients to shine through. A warm salad of poached salmon, asparagus and Jersey Royals is a perfect example. Poaching the fish in the residual heat of an aromatic court bouillon will gently coax the best from it, leaving it tender and moist with a delicate fragrance of herbs and black peppercorns. Dress the Jersey Royals and asparagus, while warm, with the tangy mustard dressing. A pinch of freshly chopped chives will add a hint of onion.

To make the court bouillon, pour 500ml of cold water into a large pot. Add a sprig of thyme and parsley, a few black peppercorns, a chopped shallot and two bay leaves. A splash of white wine will add sharpness. Bring to the boil and leave for an hour to infuse.

Ingredients (serves 8)

- 2 100g salmon fillets
- 500ml court bouillon
- 6 asparagus sears
- Handful of baby spinach
- 10 Jersey Royals
- A few chopped chives
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- Pinch of salt

Method

1. Cook the potatoes until tender. Drain and keep warm.
2. Bring the court bouillon to the boil and pour over the seasoned salmon. Leave to cook in the residual heat for 3 minutes (leave in longer if you like it well done).
3. Cook the asparagus for 3 minutes in boiling water.
4. Whisk the mustard with the olive oil, vinegar and salt.
5. Dress the Jersey Royals, spinach and asparagus with the mustard vinaigrette. Sprinkle over some freshly snipped chives.
6. Serve the salmon on a bed of the warm salad.

Theatre of Wine's Daniel Illsley selects the perfect tipple

With new season asparagus, my wine thoughts turn to the Loire Valley. The longest river in France, it is home to so many lovely, fresh white wines that conjure the spirit of spring. A chenin blanc is lovely with asparagus, and you can seek out wines from Anjou, Vouvray or Saumur, but my choice is altogether more obscure…. Cour-Cheverny is a tiny appellation dedicated to the Romarantin grape. Pascal Bellier has made a lovely 2007 (£12) that has aged well, and has aromas of May blossom, butter and apple. The flavour has a sharp crab-apple bite and a dry finish that will frame the king of river fish beautifully.

Availbale from Theatre of Wine
75 Trafalgar Road SE10 9TS
020 8858 6363; theatreofwine.com

Epicure

Victoria Purcell enjoys a very civilised Friday evening in Greenwich

The Piano Restaurant at the North Pole
131 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA; 020 8853 3020
www.northpolegreenwich.com

I've wanted to sample the modern European cuisine on offer at North Pole's Piano Restaurant for quite some time. My last visit to this popular three-in-one venue – pub, club and restaurant – saw me tearing up the dance floor in the South Pole, the basement club.

This evening's entertainment was quite different. It was quiet, for starters; very quiet, until the pianist took to the ivories to play some gorgeously slinky modern ballads and more diners were seated.

The cocktail and wine lists are very substantial, so you can really linger over a meal here. You can also lose yourself gazing at the fish swimming contentedly in the chandelier, or trying to figure out who that unfamiliar guy is in the collection of limited-edition, back-lit Rat Pack prints. The boyfriend and I sipped a refreshing glass of house bubbly while we settled in, and ordered a couple of large glasses of a Hungarian pinot grigio to accompany our meal.

We started with some fabulously fresh, fleshy pan-fried scallops served on a flavoursome (if a little salty) spinach and mascarpone risotto, and a dish of parma ham-wrapped buffalo mozzarella, complemented perfectly with tomato, fresh basil leaves and a light pinenut and rocket salad.

The main course, for him, was an incredibly tender, juicy Scotch rib-eye steak, served with creamy a spinach, potato and truffle puree, wild mushrooms and red wine sauce. For me, a lemon sole tornado (that's little spiralled strips of lemon sole, to you and me), served with lobster and langoustine pasta and bistro sauce – a delicious dish that is light yet full of flavour. Side orders of homemade chunky chips and green beans saw that we were very well sated indeed.

And dessert – for there's always room for dessert – was an irresistible pecan pie with vanilla ice cream and berry coulis, and an exotic fruit salad with blackcurrant sorbet served in a let-me-just-pinch-a-bit-of-that tuille basket. Delightful. ●

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Take the opportunity to revel in Michelin Gourmand rated cooking at these unbeatable prices. The menu is available – reservations only – Monday to Friday at lunchtimes. Just call us on **020 8333 2666** and quote ***'Spring Offer'*** to reserve your table.

Chapters' blend of informality and Continental café chic make it a stylishly entertaining place to eat – the perfect rendezvous in fact! The all-day menu means you can enjoy great food from breakfast to dinner and don't forget our renowned melt-in-your-mouth steaks cooked to perfection in a specially imported Josper oven.

"The room is awash with light and accented with exposed brickwork, and there is a casual neighbourhood vibe; good-natured staff make such a difference" **The Good Food Guide 2011**

Spring offer prices only available when booked. Runs Monday to Friday lunchtimes only until May 27th 2011. Excludes bank holidays.

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Michelin Bib Gourmand

TWO AA ROSETTES

Bella Vista

Alex Tyndall is head chef of Blackheath village's 'Bella Vista'. He talks to Douglas Blyde about monk's beard, golfing calamities and adventures Sicily...

In 2010 I inherited what was for me a new style of cuisine and a new brigade, some of whom called me 'Conan the Barbarian' at first! But we've got to be a bit like race cars, accelerating from 0-60 instantly to meet the demands of up to 160 covers in an evening. It's a competitive environment meaning we strive for the best.

My brigade of chefs are a fiercely hard working bunch of girls and guys including one at the moment who works with me in the Winter and spends summer catering for a Hollywood celebrity - unfortunately Blackheath is not quite so exotic!

I might not have been a chef. I studied Social Culture and Policy at Bristol. But I put fun before work and never completed the course. After an assistant management role, I admitted to myself that my first love was the kitchen. I started at a small family restaurant in Bristol where we served steak Diane, lobster Thermidor and pâté a la maison - dated dishes even at the time!

I'm an Essex boy. After gaining NVQs in cooking, I returned to Colchester where I worked as head chef at designer supermarket, the Food Company. Then I went to the Queens Hotel, a landmark in Leeds. But I kept seeing an ad in Caterer and Hotelkeeper for 'chef wanted' at Andrew Mcleish's Michelin starred Chapter One restaurant, Kent, which ultimately proved a formative career move. I stayed at Chapter One for six years moving up to the position of Sous Chef and that gave me the backbone to my cooking skills which I use at Bella Vista today. I've also worked at Huntingdon's Old Bridge Hotel alongside Master of Wine, John Hoskins.

I like the character of lesser known cuts of meat. After searing, I braise Scottish short ribs in Merlot overnight. These retain shape but become tender, and work well with crispy potatoes, baby onions and braising liqeur. This is served with bright green earthy barba di frate (monk's beard), a skinny, glossy vegetable from Tuscany.

Some customers won't let me take liver or chicken tagliatelli off the menu. And others are unhappy we don't bake pizza. Unfortunately the kitchen at Bella Vista is tiny, I would love to bake authentic pizzas but we simply don't have the space.

I find our front of house team gain huge confidence when they have recommended the less obvious dishes to customers who have then really enjoyed them. Examples include tender venison haunch tagliata, which we butcher here, and delicious and light chargrilled swordfish with crispy calamari.

Michel Roux Jnr struck me as an unexpectedly paternal mentor on the BBC2 series, 'Service'. I've cooked for his right hand man, Fred Sirieix, who cheekily said my food was French influenced! This probably comes from my classic background of Chapter One but some of what the very famous Italian Chef Giorgio Locatelli does can feel French accented - boundaries blur. Overall though, my style shows a strong Northern Italian influence. It's a lot richer than your average Italian food - but it's tastier too!

Here at Bella Vista customers on Friday's are the most adventurous. But on Sunday lunchtime we cook a very traditional well aged roast beef from Aberdeenshire or Perthshire.

"...my style shows a strong Northern Italian influence. It's a lot richer than your average Italian food – but it's tastier too!"

My signature polenta chips were inspired by those at a restaurant called 'Ice Bergs' in Sydney's Bondi district. As well as polenta, I use semolina for structure and deep fry them in bracingly fresh oil. As a result they're crisp on the outside with a fluffy centre. The current version are slightly larger than before and stacked like Jenga blocks on the plate.

In terms of inspiration, I eat out a lot. I love Italian food of course and travelled to Valpolicella, Bologna and Tuscany last year, exploring markets laden with peppers, artichokes and fresh fish. Recently I have been on a trip to Sicily where the highlight of the trip was a visit to the volcanic island of Stromboli.

Here at Bella Vista we are in the middle of the Village where restaurants abound. Value is important to us here and in fact I found a menu from the River Café dated 1995 the other day. Of course, this much revered restaurant is not in Blackheath but in Hammersmith and famous as the home of Jamie Oliver, but it amused me that 16 years later, we're cheaper today than they were then!

My mission is to win the hearts of people in Blackheath village through their stomachs. I want Bella Vista to be their ideal local trattoria...

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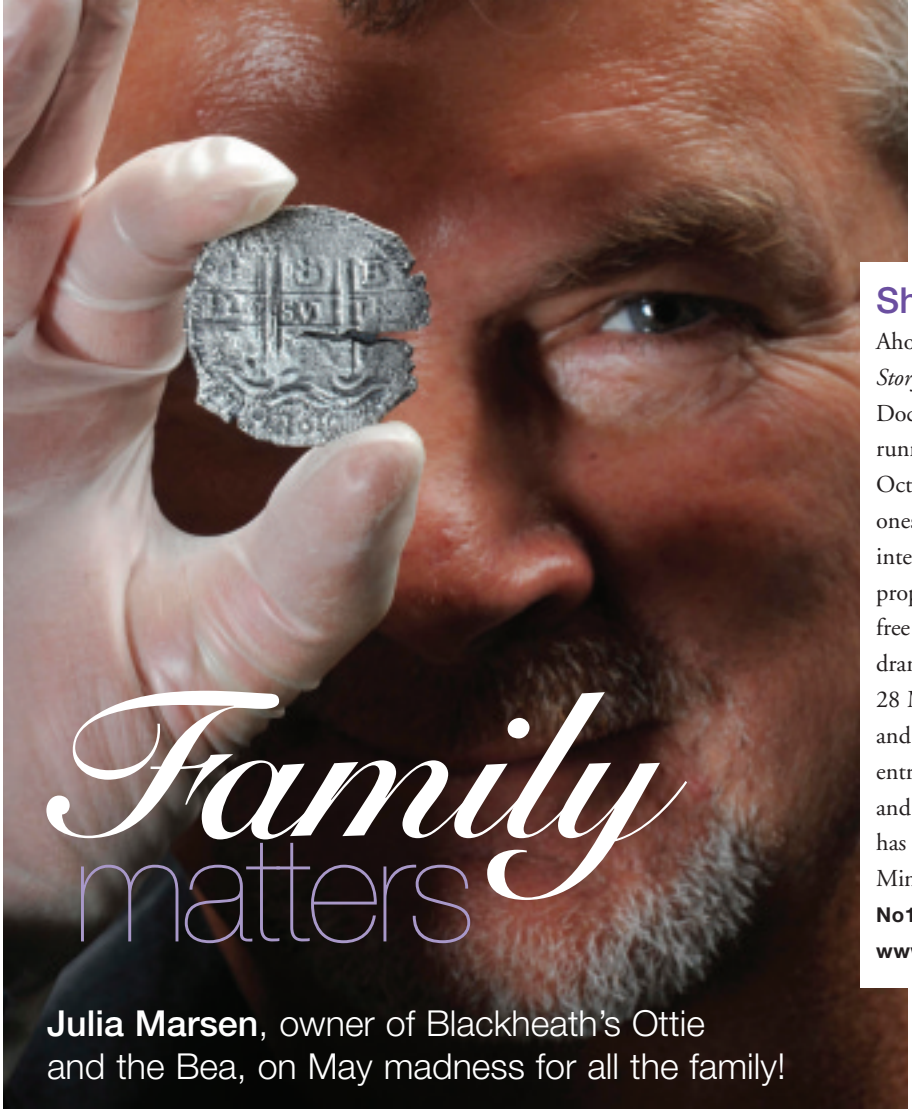

Family matters

Julia Marsen, owner of Blackheath's Ottie and the Bea, on May madness for all the family!

Shiver me timbers!

Ahoy there all would-be pirates, *The Captain Kidd Story* opens at the Museum of London Docklands on 20 May, running until 30 October. For little ones (age 4 and over) interested in becoming a proper pirate, there are free interactive half-hour drama performances on 28 May at 12.30, 2.30 and 3.30pm. Exhibition entry £7 adults (£6 advance booking), £5 kids and concessions (£4 in advance). The museum has loads going on from the Monday Mudlark and Mini Mudlark sessions to special half-term events.

No1 Warehouse E14 4AL; 020 7001 9844
www.museumoflondon.org.uk

A breath of fresh air

Let's Play Out is a new outdoor exercise class for 2-5 year olds and their parents or carers. Starting off with a skip, hop and a jump, it is 45 minutes of fun and fitness to helps kids master motor skills. Classes run all year round, so remember: "There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!" My daughter Ottie loved the Bear Hunt, and the chilly weather called for a hot chocolate in Pistachios in the Park.

Find your nearest session and book a free trial on 07956 266 347 or rachel@letsplayout.com

A right royal affair

Celebrate the royal wedding locally on Friday 29 April. East Greenwich Pleasaunce is hosting a day of family fun (11am-9pm), where guests are invited to take a picnic to share and children can attend in royal fancy dress (off Halstow Road SE10, email friendsofhalstow@gmail.com). Also, take advantage of a week of special offers at Blackheath Royal Standard running at participating shops from 23-30 April, culminating on the 30th with a day of celebrations, including face painting and workshops, from 12-4pm.

Smart fun

The latest product range to grab my attention is P'kolino. Their multi-solution shape puzzles caught my eye at the Design Museum Shop, and their Book Buggee (left) and Clothes Tree are brilliant. They are being brought to the UK from Florida by Maxine Lewis, a Greenwich mother who set up Gander Kids to source good quality children's products at reasonable prices.

Available from Ottie & the Bea, 12 Old Dover Road SE3 7BT. See www.ganderkids.co.uk

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School praise

The Archant Good Schools Show launches its inaugural awards ceremony

Do you think your child's school prepares the best school dinner? Or perhaps their head teacher deserves special recognition? Maybe there is an individual who is a real unsung hero by making such a difference to a school… The UK has an enviable reputation for good schooling, producing high achievers, and The Archant Good Schools Show intends to recognise the best on Friday 16 September.

Launching its inaugural show this year at London's Olympia, The Archant Good Schools Show will be bringing together all our finest schools under one roof. Over the course of two days, Friday 16 and Saturday 17, you will be able to meet with the people who can unlock the answers to your child's education. Our special guest, Tom Parker Bowles, will be presenting the awards on Friday 16 September - and see right for more details...

Make sure your school is in the running by visiting www.thearchantgoodschoolsshow.co.uk and entering your nomination. Voting closes on June 24, 2011

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Outstanding Contribution to a School
Recognising the unsung heroes (not including pupils and teachers)

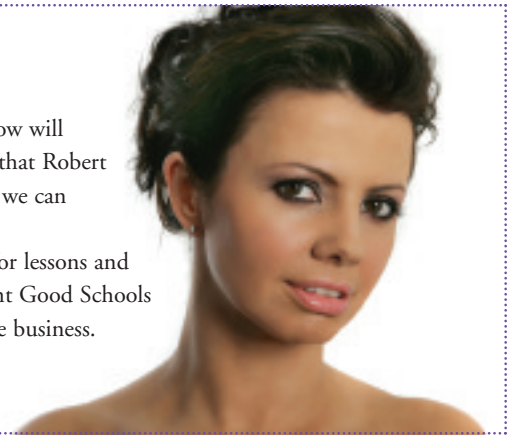
The Archant Good School 2011
As voted for by Archant

NEWS FLASH

As well as hosting schools from up and down the country, The Archant Good Schools Show will also bring you a second floor featuring a special 'elements' room. Last month we revealed that Robert Emery, founder of Arts Academy, will be on hand to present the music element, and now we can reveal who is behind our dance element.

Karen Hardy shot to fame in *Strictly Come Dancing* and is now constantly in demand for lessons and special events at her Chelsea studio. She will be bringing her finest teachers to The Archant Good Schools Show in what is sure to be an unforgettable opportunity to dance with the very best in the business.

For further news about The Archant Good Schools Show, visit www.thearchantgoodschoolsshow.co.uk, plus find us on Facebook and Twitter.



Art of tomorrow

Why Eltham Palace was the perfect host for students from Blackheath High School

Year 8 Students from Blackheath High School were recently invited to display their impressive works of art at Eltham Palace. Following their previous visits to the Art Deco Palace as part of their Art and Design Technology studies, every Year 8 student had produced Art Deco inspired ceramic plates, art work and jewellery. Their designs were scanned and digitally enhanced before being printed onto transfers, which were applied to ceramic plates and fired in the kiln at school.

Much of the jewellery was designed on computers and cut using the school's state of the art laser cutting machine. The materials used ranged from acrylic to wood veneers and leather, and the variety was diverse; earrings, necklaces, bracelets broches and cufflinks.

English Heritage representative Susan Martin said how much she and the rest of the staff at the Palace enjoyed the exhibition and Mary Aspden, Head of Design Technology at Blackheath High, adds: "The atmosphere was fantastic with the air filled with the sweet voices of the chamber choir. The standard of work has been exceptional and there are some truly outstanding pieces of work on display. We were delighted that well over 100 people attended the private viewing alone."

See more about the school at www.blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

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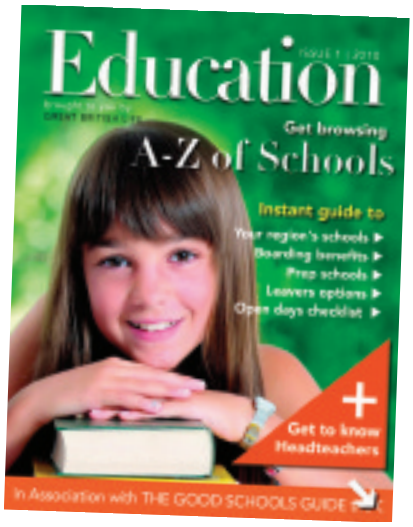

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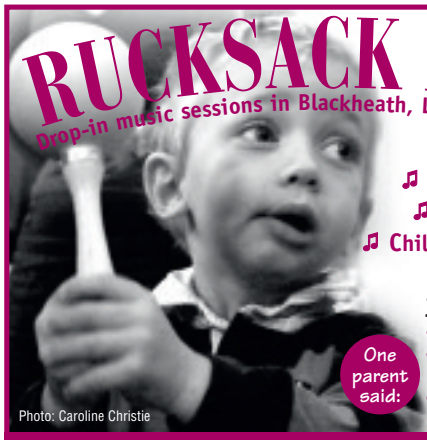
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Nature *notes*

Writer, naturalist and environmental consultant **Dusty Gedge** on wildlife havens

The caterpillar munching away at the green leaves beneath the creamy yellow flowers of the common toadflax is a gardener's nightmare... but a naturalist's joy! This particular caterpillar – yellow and white with black dots – was the larva of a rare moth, the Toadflax Brocade.

You may think the Olympic sites are being designed solely for athletes and spectators, but they are also being designed for a number of rare species, too, including this moth. This particular caterpillar, however, was not lunching in the Lower Lea Valley, but on a green roof in the heart of Lewisham. The two small green roofs at the Wearside Depot were installed and planted in March 2009, and by June had become home to this rare moth, proving even the smallest of spaces can provide refuge for rare creatures.

The roofs, one on a freight container and the other on a generator shed, are now in their third year, and there are plans for more. They were planted with wildflowers, annuals, biennials and perennials. In the first year the cornflowers, corn cockles and corn marigolds were a riot of colour and, of course, the toadflax hosted a special visitor. But what visits them for nectar, pollen, seeds and leaf is also important. Honeybees are regular visitors, house sparrow scrape around for seeds and a goldfinch has graced the seed stem of a Viper's bugloss plant.

Green roofs are a specialty of mine, in fact, they are my day job! Four years ago, my colleague John Little and I wrote an e-guide on how to build your own green roof on a shed, extension or garage. Over 300 small green roofs have been built using it, including a lovely shed at the Devonshire Road Nature Reserve in Brockley.

Much of our green space in London is 'tidy' and inhospitable to wildlife. Things are changing with more wildflower meadows being planted in parks and along roadsides, but a green roof is the perfect place to encourage 'the untidy'. They not only provide an important habitat for wildlife, but can give a real lift to a home, transforming black felt into a colourful pot pourri of aromatic aromas. ●

Dusty Gedge is co-author of DIY Guide to Green and Living Roofs (available from www.livingroofs.org) and Small Green Roofs: Low-Tech Solutions for Greener Living (published in May by Timber Press)

A living roof at Wearside Depot in Lewisham

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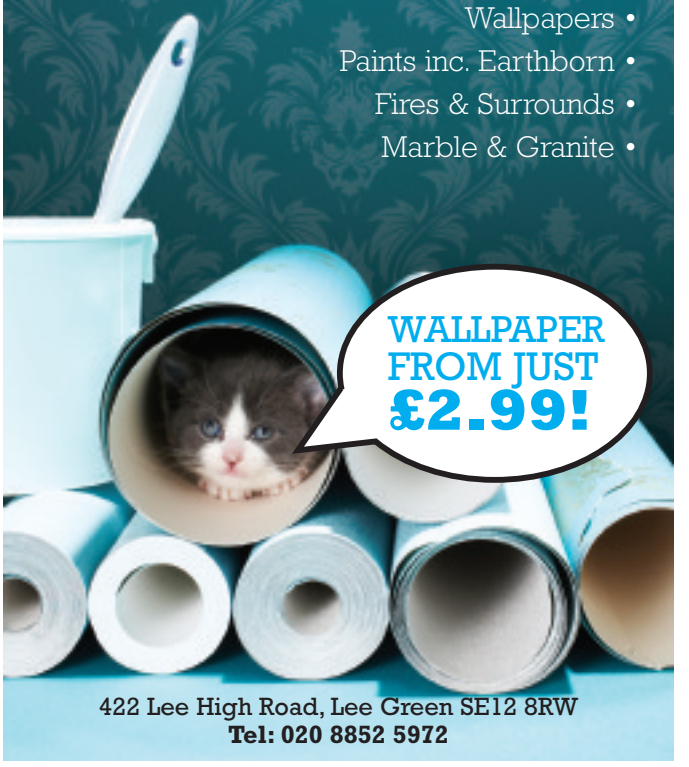

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Style counsel

Sonia Murton, interiors guru, cultivates the perfect contemporary alfresco space

With summer pretty much upon us, it is time to extend the indoors outdoors. I have found some lush garden furnishings and accessories to create a truly inspirational space to relax, enjoy and, of course, entertain!

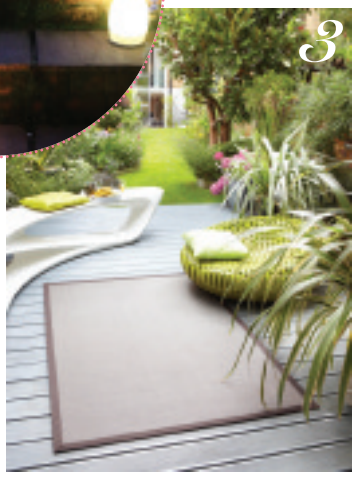
For luxurious furnishings with an edge, Indian Ocean has some wonderful pieces to suit both a classic and contemporary taste, but my favourite has to be the Concrete Chesterfield by John Gray – yes, it's a sofa made of concrete! Unbelievably realistic, it is sure to be the centrepiece for years to come (£4,000 from the Indian Ocean concession in Selfridges). Complement with luxurious cushions courtesy of Missioni Home and team bright, floral prints and stripes for unadulterated garden chic (starting at £76 for cushions from Amara online).

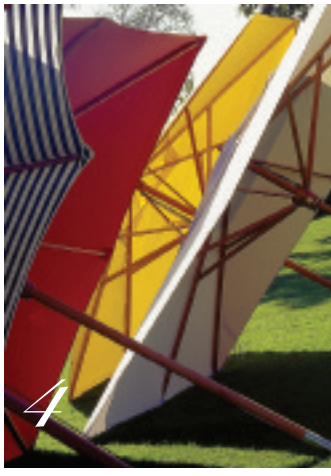
One of my newest finds for quirky pieces is Brighton Pod online, dedicated to promoting the work of Britain's most talented independent designers and craftspeople. The Tea Cup Planter by Holly Palmer, inspired by Alice in Wonderland, is available in red, white, orange, blue, green or yellow at £169.

The external living room would not be complete without a rug – the Inside Out is an all-weather, stain-resistant, wipe clean rug that will add sophistication (£39.99 from Plantation Rug online). And when temperatures soar, it is imperative you keep your cool. The Global Parasols' website has an enormous selection of parasols ranging in size, style and colour.

As night draws in, ensure you have your eco-friendly Ambiflames at the ready; these splash-proof, cordless lights come in seven colour options and four shapes (£49.95 from GSP). They stay illuminated for nine hours and take just a couple of hours to recharge. If you want to leave it to the experts, opt for Belle Interiors' bespoke interior design service – we know the garden is not to be overlooked, and that you need to make the most of the British summer. We will create a scheme perfectly suited to your lifestyle that will really make your summer bloom! Just give us a call.

Sonia Murton is founder of Belle Interiors
17 Royal Parade, Chislehurst BR7 6NR; 020 8467 0290





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1. Missoni Home cushions, from £76
2. Ambiflame outdoor lights, £49.95 from GSP online
3. Inside Out rug, £39.99 from Plantation Rug
4. Parasols by Global Parasols, from £270
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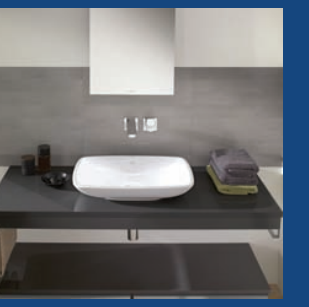

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Green space

Blackheath-based gardener and consultant **Lynda Synge** on those pesky univited garden guests...

The glamorous month of May is almost upon us. Garden hedonists will no doubt be busy booking tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show in the hope they cross paths with the likes of Rod Stewart and Alan Titchmarsh. Who knows, they might even get to exchange a humble word or two… on some gardening-related subject, of course. I worry, though, that you may be too busy to focus on some of the month's essential tasks that are not so glamorous. I'm thinking, first, of snails.

I can't help but wonder if it is possible in even the wildest of dreams that snails could be the next endangered species? Yes, it's been cold these past weeks and snails hibernate, but they don't normally miss a chance on a mild day to emerge triumphant among our favourite plants. Yet search as I might I can't find a single one. The freezing winter must have seriously blighted them but, nevertheless, do keep an eye out for them – preferably in the early mornings.

They prefer succulent young shoots of perennials and annuals, so place sharp grit around susceptible plants. Slug and snail pellets are available too, though be aware they are not without risks to the wider animal and bird population. Probably the best prevention is to keep the garden tidy. This reduces the number of places they can hole up, so as to wreak havoc during the night. Pick them off by hand – if you can bear to – and move them to a wilder area.

The second unglamorous task to tackle is aphids; most commonly greenfly. If you don't watch out for them now, you could have a problem on your hands – they can ruin tulips and roses in a flash. Simply spraying them off with water at the first sign is often sufficient, or use your fingers to squash them.

Now you can enjoy the sights and smells of lilac, clematis montana and wisteria – to name a few of the month's best plants – while sipping your coffee. But don't relax for too long, there will always be more to do!

Lynda has 20 years' experience in gardening and consultancy. For advice and practical lessons, call 020 8297 9680

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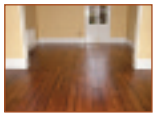

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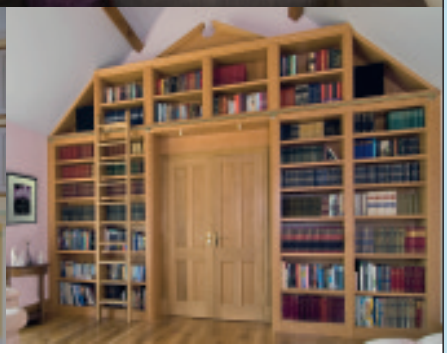

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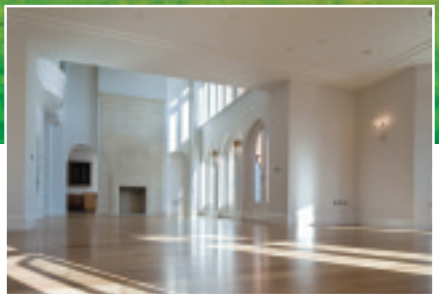

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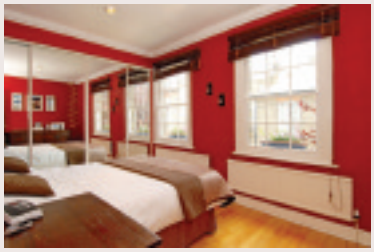

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Sales

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Farnaby Road - Shortlands BR2 **£825,000 F/H**

Built in 1929, this magnificent detached family home has been improved by the present owners but still retains the majority of its original charm and character. There are five bedrooms and three reception rooms. There is also a separate coach house. The rear gardens are west facing, mainly laid to lawn and extend to approximately 130'. Located just 1/2 mile from Shortlands train station, with frequent services into Central London.

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Waterside Avenue - Beckenham BR3 **£599,950 F/H**

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Lettings

Woodlands Road - Bickley BR1 **£3,200 PCM**

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Chislehurst - 020 8295 4900

Chislehurst Road - Bromley BR1 **£2,300 PCM**

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Rowan Court - Beckenham BR3 **£1,700 PCM**

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Beckenham - 020 8663 4433

Masons Hill - Bromley BR2 **£1,250 PCM**

Superb top floor apartment located in a newly built luxury development close to excellent transport links and local amenities. Finished to a very high standard and accommodation comprises spacious reception with newly laid flooring, dining area, fully fitted integrated kitchen, two double bedrooms master bedroom with en-suite, gas central heating, private parking and is offered unfurnished.

Bromley - 020 8315 5544

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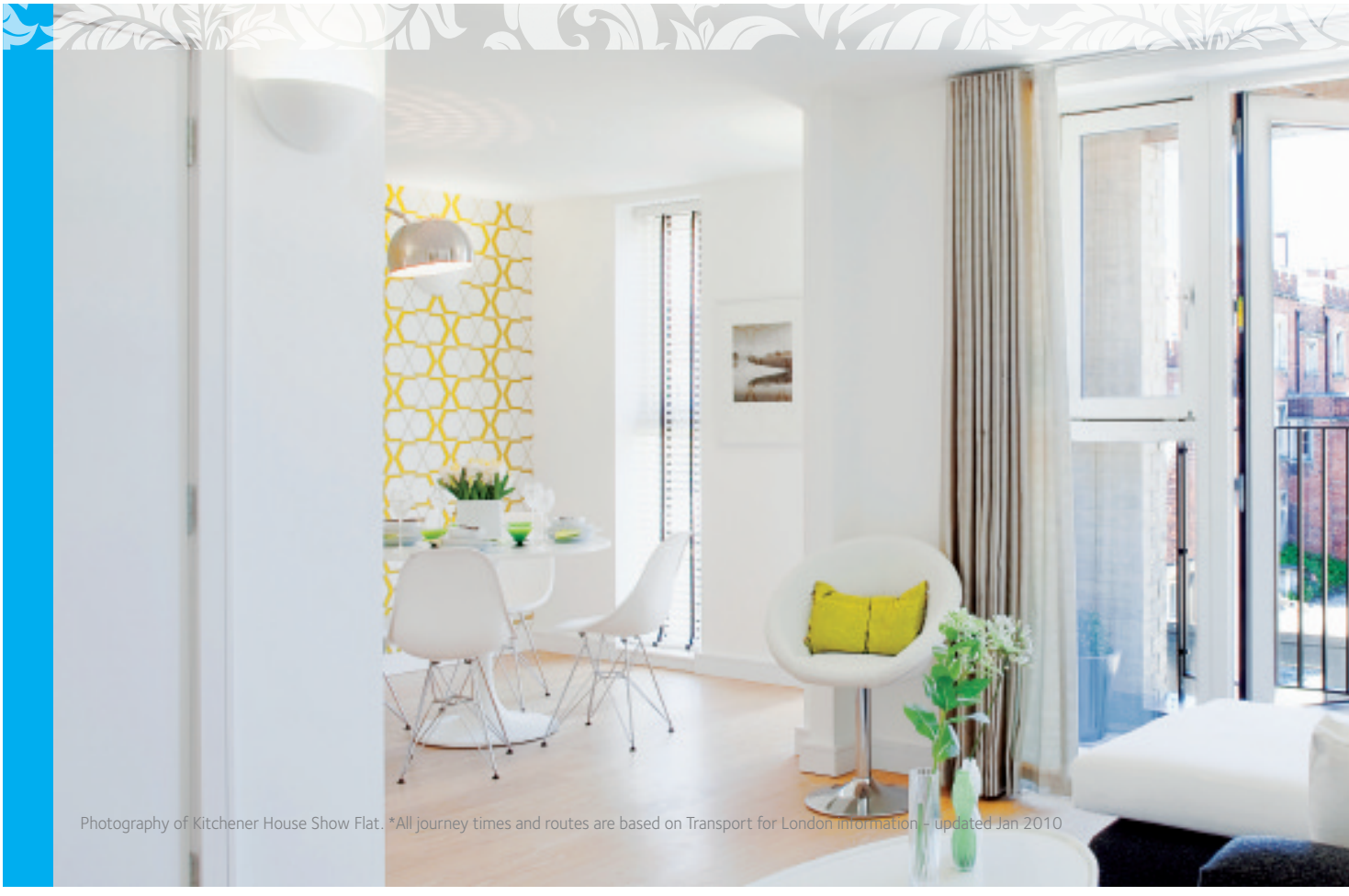

Photography of Kitchener House Show Flat. *All journey times and routes are based on Transport for London information - updated Jan 2010

Property picks

Three outstanding properties on the market

Furnace House, Gun Road TN22

£1,500,000

Furnace House has been traditionally styled in the form of a Sussex farmhouse, yet inside it features an impressive array of specifications with a high quality finish and stunning features including a beautiful Inglenook fireplace in the sitting room. Set in a two-acre plot with triple garage and surrounded by glorious East Sussex countryside, it is the perfect family home.

Savills, 01892 507 000

South Wing, Lullingstone Castle DA4

Price on application

Set in this hidden valley overlooking a 19-acre lake beside the meandering River Darenth sits Lullingstone Castle. South Wing is a substantial portion of the original building offering unique and versatile five-bedroom accommodation over three floors. Sympathetic restoration has been carried out by the present owners to retain the character of the period, but with a modern twist.

Clifton & Co, 01474 700 009

Heathfield BR7

£875,000 freehold

This handsome family home forms part of one of Chislehurst's most sought-after residential roads. The already spacious accommodation could readily be extended using permissions obtained by the owner to create six bedrooms and four bathrooms. The existing accommodation includes four reception rooms, a kitchen/dining room and utility, large garage, four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Humphriss & Ryde, 020 8295 0999

Moving times

The latest from The Guide's property market

Baltic Quay SE16

£429,950

Boasting fabulous views, this property sits within the recently refurbished tower of a portered development with secure parking. Tastefully decorated, it comprises an open-plan reception and kitchen with floor-to-ceiling windows, two private balconies and en suite master bedroom.

Oliver Jacques, 020 7231 5050

The Point SE3

£695,000 leasehold

A penthouse apartment with extraordinary triple-aspect roof terrace affording a wonderful panorama of Blackheath. It features a huge, open-plan living space, three bedrooms, and two bathrooms.

Comber & Company, 020 8318 9666

Local recognition

The Estate & Letting Agent Awards, the largest and longest running awards in the letting agent industry, have announced their shortlist for 2011. Changingproperty.com, Greenwich's primary on-line based lettings and property management agency, has been shortlisted as a top 10 letting agent in the London region. The top three letting agents for each region, as well as the national awards, will announced by Phil Spencer from Channel 4's *Location, Location, Location* at a lavish ceremony in London on 15 April.

For more info call 020 8855 8999 or email info@changingproperty.com

Diary Close BR1

£275,000 share of freehold

A two bedroom, two bathroom penthouse apartment originally built around 2000 by Berkeley Homes. The apartment offers spacious accommodation comprising a 16ft lounge with fabulous oriel bay window and cherry wood flooring, plus two double bedrooms, master en suite and family bathroom and fitted kitchen.

Ashdale Estate Agents, 020 8466 8445

Dene Terrace BR7

£1,450,000-£1,650,000

Designed by Urban Evolution, Dene Terrace is an award-winning development of 14 elegant townhouses. Winner of four prestigious awards including What House UK - Best House, the 3,800sq ft houses are situated in approximately 2.5 acres of private woodland and offers generous entertaining space and a master bedroom suite leading to a roof terrace.

www.deneterrace.co.uk

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INVESTMENT ONLY (OCCUPATION END OF 2012)

- Beautiful One Bedroom Apartment with balcony
- 3rd Floor apartment with lift access and underground parking
- Views onto Swan Lake, Thames and Thames Barrier
- Separate Kitchen to Lounge
- Good tenants on AST

£250,000 Leasehold

FARNSWORTH COURT, MILLENNIUM VILLAGE SE10

(OCCUPATION END OF 2012)

- 850 Sq. Ft. Luxurty third floor flat with parking
- Marvelous 2 Double Bed 2 Bath with Balcony Apartment
- Reception with floor to ceiling windows benefitting from lots of natural light
- Apartment Offered Furnished
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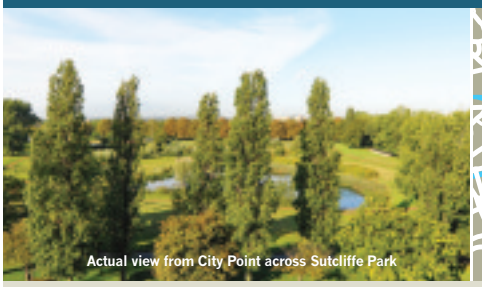
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Photography depicts Showhome interior and Sutcliffe Park.
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A stunning two double bedroom apartment within a landmark Blackheath development, large open plan reception with balcony and city views, 24 hour concierge, secure underground parking, moments to Maize Hill station.

Greenfell Mansions. Millenium Quay, SE8, £1200pcm
Larger than average 1 double bedroom apartment, generous open plan reception, large balcony with river view, 5 minutes to Greenwich

Delafield Road, Charlton, SE7 £2500pcm
A fabulous 6 bedroom semi detached house that has been completely refurbished. This property is truly unique and a golden nugget in the local rental market of Charlton.

Port East, West India Quay. Canary Wharf, E14, from £2700pcm
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No 1 West India Quay. Canary Wharf, E14, from £3300pcm
Selection of luxury 2 double bedroom apartments within this landmark Canary Wharf development, amazing views across London, 24 hour concierge, secure underground parking, arranged over the 23rd-25th floors

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Langton Way SE3 £750,000 F/H

This detached 4 bedroom family house is situated in a popular tree-lined private road just a short walk from the Heath, 2 bathrooms (one en-suite), large L-shaped living room leading to walled garden with a 21ft garage/utility room. Off-street parking.

King George Street SE10 £625,000 F/H

Charming Grade II Listed two bedroom Georgian terraced house set in one of the most sought after roads in the West Greenwich Conservation Area. Arranged over three levels and presented in excellent decorative order, retaining numerous period features with direct access to garden.

Lock Chase SE3 £450,000 L/H

Situated in this much sought after location close to Blackheath Village and station, this 2 bedroom spacious ground floor flat offers direct access from the kitchen to communal gardens, large reception with bay window and use of a garage en-bloc.

Eltham Road SE12 £435,000 L/H

Exceptional 3 bedroom flat, occupying the entire raised ground floor, with its own private entrance. Refurbished to combine contemporary and period features. Offering a total floor space of approx. 1,970 sq.ft. Garage and direct access to a communal garden.

Conduit House, Hyde Vale SE10 £550,000 L/H

This spacious and extremely well-presented 3 bedroom apartment is set within an attractive 1930s mansion block at the top of Hyde Vale, on the edge of the Heath. Refurbished to an extremely high standard in keeping with the Art Deco era. Spacious reception room and 17' dining hall with doors to the communal garden.

Basevi Way SE8 £589,950 F/H

Well presented three storey family house set in a popular riverside development within walking distance of Greenwich town centre and Cutty Sark DLR. 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, large kitchen and garden to rear.

Reynolds Place SE3 £375,000 F/H

A 2 bedroom mid-terraced house set within the popular Rectory Fields Conservation Area adjoining Blackheath Royal Standard. Open-plan dual aspect living space with excellent built-in storage. The kitchen space is directly off the dining area and has a modern contemporary feel. Bathroom boasts a beautiful contemporary suite with "Hansgrohe" accessories and ceramic floor with underfloor heating.

Greenwich Park Street SE10 £895,000 F/H

A charming mid-terraced 4 bedroom Georgian townhouse with a delightful landscaped rear garden. The property is situated on a quiet and popular road close to Greenwich Royal Park, Cutty Sark DLR and all the amenities that Greenwich town centre has to offer.

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Tideslea Path West Thamesmead SE28 £175,995 LEASEHOLD

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Call Cathy now on 07736 131 396 for more details and to book your viewing.)

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Agent speaks

Unsure whether now is the time to buy? Allow **Tim Basford**, director of Kershaws, to help you find the answer

The age-old question of whether now is a good time to buy is as current today as it always been and for which the answer most always remains a resounding yes! The huge confidence fluctuations of the last five years have left both buyers and sellers confused and looking for reassurance, a situation not helped by the plethora of TV programmes and newspaper gurus who imply a psychic knowledge of 'the market' where generally I'd say they should only be seen as entertainment.

National reporting is by its very nature general and seeks to communicate complicated statistics to the widest possible audience, which in the personal property search is not necessarily helpful or accurate. Blackheath and Greenwich are both areas where demand is never quite met by supply. The need for a well informed local agent is therefore vital to make one of the largest financial and emotional decisions of adult life – the buying of one's home.

Those with less in depth knowledge of the individual nature of the Blackheath and Greenwich markets will attempt to translate national statistics onto the local market and you will no doubt be told that the market is both on the rise and on the fall and that it is both a buyer's and a seller's market.

The current picture of the property market in a regeneration zone of Cardiff or Manchester has no real relevance to us locally and even within London the fact that there is excess supply of two bedroom, two bathroom apartments in Hackney for example is not of much interest when considering the price of a home in Blackheath or Greenwich.

A good property remains one of the few sound investments at a time of rising inflation, something the UK economy appears to be experiencing at the moment.

Both Angela and I live in the area and we are proud of our extensive knowledge of this very individual local property market, gained from a collective experience of over 40 years. Our objective is to facilitate the process of moving with the minimum of fuss and stress and always hold to our philosophy that our business represents real people and their homes.

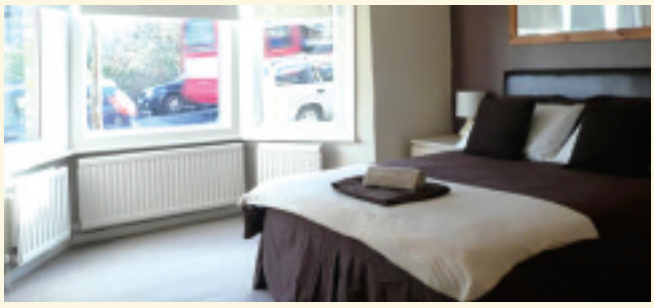
Many of our clients seek to buy and sell with us as they know they are in safe hands – indeed, despite an ever changing property market it is gratifying that so many who have used our service will actively recommend us to friends and family as being the only possible agent to use as they feel we operate with professionalism, discretion, integrity and care – exceeding their expectations of personal care, attention, and results.

To return to my initial point, I am sure most of us have heard friends regret a decision at not having bought a property for one reason or another – so yes, now is a good time to buy!

This magnificent secluded detached family residence with private gated entrance is set in a beautiful plot of over 1/4 acre on the sought-after private Cator Estate. The interior boasts over 5,000sq ft of well planned accommodation and the property is priced at £3,300,000.

Pictured left is an Edwardian family house currently on the market with Kershaws, priced at £1,200,000. For more information on this or more on the property market around *The Guide* area, call 020 8297 2922 or visit www.kershaws.eu

Premier



Woodland Terrace — Price on application

Fantastic two bedroom ground floor garden flat offered with no chain. Refurbished to a very high standard and offering good size lounge, fully fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a very nice bathroom. This property also comes with it's own rear garden and must be seen. Call Brad at Blackheath to view.

Contact Your Move Blackheath – 020 8853 2222

Crosier Close, SE3 — POA

Superb four bedroom unfurnished house. Immaculate condition and offering two good size reception rooms, fully fitted kitchen with utility room, modern bathroom and good size garden. Located on the popular gated development of Brook Village.

Contact Your Move Blackheath 020 8853 2222

Gilbert Close, SE18 — £950 PCM

Very well presented two bedroom first floor flat. Offering superb transport links and available immediately. Ensuite to main bedroom, good size lounge and fitted kitchen.

Contact Your Move Blackheath 020 8853 2222

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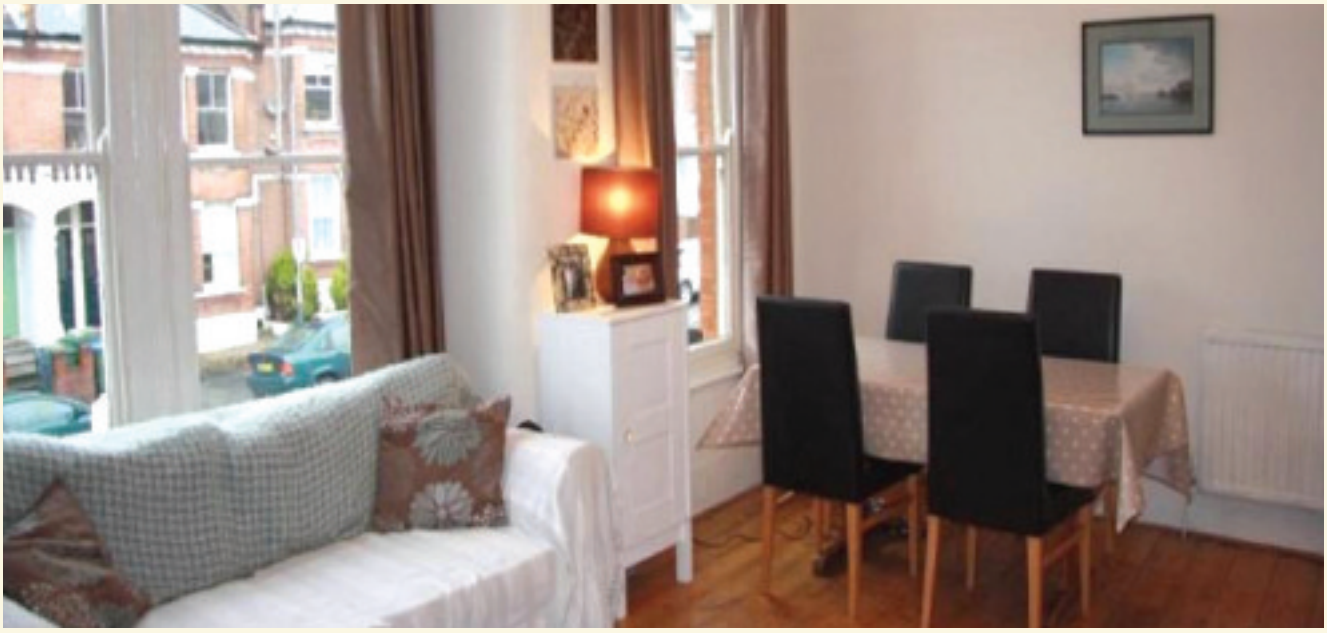

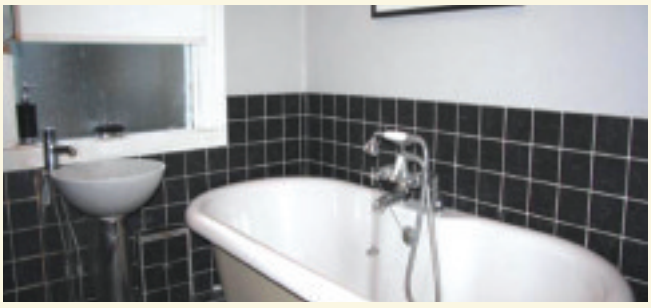

Eastcombe Avenue — Price on application

Super opportunity to purchase an adorable three bedroom Edwardian maisonette situated on the popular Charlton Slopes. Fabulous loft conversion, Fitted kitchen, New bathroom with Roll top bath and private rear garden. Offered with a new lease this is simply and must be seen property. Call Daryl at Blackheath to view.

Contact Your Move Blackheath – 020 8853 2222

Aldenay Court, SE10 — £1950 PCM

Fantastic two bedroom flat located in Greenwich available now. Close to town centre and local amenities including Cutty Sark DLR. This is a stunning property and needs to be seen to be appreciated.

Contact Your Move Blackheath 020 8853 2222

Adagio Building, SE10 boarders — £2,300 PCM

Modern new build available now. Offering three bedrooms, fitted kitchen open plan to lounge area, bathroom and private balcony offering clear views over the River Thames. Close to the DLR connection and walking distance to Greenwich.

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Shooters Hill Road, SE3

Positioned on the approach to the open heath and occupying the entire top floor of this imposing semi, King Sturge are offering this two double bedroom apartment ideally located for Blackheath Village for its mainline station and shops, bars and restaurants.

£350,000 - Leasehold

The Lane House, SE10

An outstanding detached home, recently constructed and occupying a large plot in West Greenwich. It has been designed to the highest specification and blends contemporary light filled interior with a wealth of traditional materials. The accommodation is arranged over three floors with the main family living space at ground and first floor levels.

£3,500,000 - Guide Price

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Sinclair Hammelton

CHELSFIELD **£1,200,000**

Situated in a rural setting amongst six acres with views over surrounding countryside, stables and paddocks this stunning four bedroom farm house is full of charm and character benefiting from flag stone floors, inglenook fireplace and an Aga. Also offered with planning permission to convert an existing barn within the grounds.

Sinclair Hammelton 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY SOUTH **£895,000**

Located in a highly regarded road and approaching 3200sq feet this charming property boasts five bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, two receptions and two stunning bathrooms. Benefiting from a 120ft West facing rear garden, utility room, steam/shower wet room and beautiful conservatory.

Sinclair Hammelton 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY SOUTH **£865,000**

A detached four/five bedroom Edwardian family home of immense character and many period features including ornate ceilings and superb fireplaces, a beautifully maintained and well stocked rear garden, morning room and triple aspect kitchen/diner. Ideally located for Bromley Town Centre and Bromley South Station just 0.2 a mile away with an abundance of restaurants, shopping facilities and fast train links to London.

BROMLEY SOUTH **£835,000**

A substantial five bedroom detached family home located in a highly sought after road conveniently situated for Bromley South high street and rail station. Briefly comprising two generous receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, large conservatory, a guest cloakroom and stunning family bathroom.

Sinclair Hammelton 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY SOUTH **£650,000**

This elegant six bedroom Edwardian property is set over three floors and offers an impressive 2389 sq ft, benefiting from a formal lounge, dinning room, fitted kitchen and a breakfast room. Just a short walk away from Bromley High Street, Bromley South station and within the catchment area of St Marks and Highfield Primary schools.

Sinclair Hammelton 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY NORTH **£325,000**

Built by Linden Homes in 2004 this high specification duplex apartment is offered to the market in show home condition. The spacious accommodation is arranged over two floors and benefits from two double bedrooms, a stunning open plan reception room, fitted kitchen, luxury en-suite shower room and family bathroom.

Sinclair Hammelton 020 8464 5566

Bromley **Beckenham** **Orpington**

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PARK ROAD, BR3 - £250,000

Ground floor 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment. With large living room, separate fitted kitchen and 2 double bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, and the master with en-suite. Close to BR stations and in smart residential area. To view call 020 8466 8445

LANGLEY WATERSIDE, BR3 - £350,000

A luxury apartment in the highly desirable gated Langley Waterside development. Offering spacious and high specification living, bright sitting room with balcony and views over the lake, 2 double bedrooms - master en-suite with 2nd balcony and quality kitchen. 020 8466 8445

DAIRY CLOSE, BR1 - £275,000

A bright and airy 2 bedroom penthouse apartment. Spacious sitting room with picturesque oriel bay window and quality wood flooring. Two double bedrooms, with the master ensuite. Contemporary kitchen and bathrooms. Off road parking. To view call 020 8466 8445

SUNDRIDGE PARADE, BR1 - £225,000

A spacious two bedroom, two reception maisonette over 3 levels located a minute's walk from Sundridge Park BR. It is within walking distance of Bromley High St. The property is spacious and has suitable use as a three bedroom property. A reliable buy-to-let opportunity. 020 8466 8445

KINGSWOOD ROAD, BR2 - £489,995

Large extended semi-detached house with spacious thru-lounge, quality kitchen, conservatory and four bedrooms. Mature gardens front and rear. Located on a smart residential road, within Langley schools catchment. Call 020 8466 8445 to view.

WORLDS END LANE BR6 - £1,875,000

A spectacular brand new detached residence. High specification throughout. 6+ bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. Unique features include; mature garden, great kitchen, dressing rooms, vaulted ceiling to dining area. To view call 020 8466 8445

DAIRY CLOSE, BR1 - £275,000

Two bedroom, two bathroom penthouse apartment in a very well maintained block. The property has a bright spacious sitting room with stunning bay window and wooden flooring. The kitchen is modern with built-in appliances and both the bathrooms are a contemporary design. The 2 bedrooms are doubles, the master en-suite. Early viewing recommended. Call Ashdale on 020 8466 8445

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MOVING

ELIOT PLACE **£1.65 MILLION**

Unique period house with amazing views across the Heath. Spacious interior of 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 large receptions, kitchen, cloakroom, conservatory, pretty south facing walled garden.

CATOR ESTATE **£1.3 MILLION**

Modern house with a spacious interior of 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, open plan living and dining and kitchen, large playroom, laundry room, workshop and garage, sunny south facing garden.

LEE TERRACE **£1.75 MILLION**

Nearing completion of an extensive refurbishment, this large 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom house has 4 receptions, family kitchen/breakfast room, laundry, large garden and off-street parking.

GREENWICH **£750,000**

4 storey Georgian house in the centre of Greenwich, a few minutes from stations. Let out on short term rentals but would easily revert to an elegant family home. With planning permission for bathroom extension.

BLACKHEATH **£650,000**

One of the larger 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom houses with integral garage on this sought after development, close to village, pretty garden and conservatory kitchen/diner, cloakroom and good storage.

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MOVING

BLACKHEATH PARK

GUIDE PRICE £3 Million

Amazing detached family house that has been the subject of a total renovation and extension programme with absolutely no expense spared resulting in an exemplary bespoke finish.

Spacious well planned and proportioned beautifully decorated interior that retains much original character and charm blended with contemporary fittings and every modern feature one would expect in a house of this calibre. Located on one of the most sought after roads on the private Cator Estate. Large garden with swimming pool and wet room complex. Ample off-road parking.

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SUNDRIDGE PARK

This five bedroom lovingly cared for, locally listed detached house built in 1903 is a fantastic family home, in a very convenient location only 0.2 miles from Sundridge Park Station. Scope for an incoming purchaser to update and personalise the house to their own taste and specification. Potential to extend subject to planning. The Drawing Room and Dining Room are particularly attractive rooms perfect for entertaining. On a good size plot of 0.4 acres. Chain free.

Contact: office 020 8325 0230 £1,395,000

CHISLEHURST

An interesting house with an interesting history. One of five substantial villas built in 1874 in a Queen Anne style designed by the renowned architect George Somers Clarke and was used as a hospital for Belgian soldiers during the First World War. Locally listed with many period features the accommodation includes 3 receptions, 6 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The top floor can be adapted to provide a self contained accommodation. Secluded 150ft garden with a southerly aspect and a detached double garage with bonus room above.

Contact: office 020 8325 0230 Offers in excess of £1,395,000

CHISLEHURST

Impressive detached period property, built circa 1870, with a wonderful sense of style and grandeur overlooking the Common. Numerous period features throughout the 5 bedroom, 3 reception room, 6 bathroom accommodation. There is a basement with a gym, sauna and small wine cellar and the original stable block is now used for garaging. The second floor has been undergoing conversion which needs to be completed. A beautiful home in a stunning location with Chislehurst Station about a mile.

Contact: office 020 8325 0230 £2,250,000

CHISLEHURST

Probably the finest penthouse in Chislehurst, set in a gated development. Amazing accommodation of approx 3669 square feet. Three bedrooms, three bath/shower rooms, drawing room, dining room, study and fitted kitchen. Balconies (5 in total) to each of the principal rooms. Underfloor heating, 2 garages and 2 store rooms. Elmstead Woods Station about half a mile. Beautifully maintained, a unique and stunning property.

Contact: office 020 8325 0230 £1,450,000

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Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, SE10 - Freehold End Of Terrace House - £749,950

END OF TERRACE VICTORIAN HOUSE WITHIN THE SOUGHT AFTER ASHBURNHAM TRIANGLE CONSERVATION AREA!! Inside this Victorian house, which is spread over three floors, you shall find two good size reception rooms, a very modern fitted kitchen/diner with access to courtyard style garden with plenty of space to host barbecues and entertain guests and under stair storage. Upstairs you will find four double bedrooms, a spacious four piece bathroom suite with shower cubicle and on the top level a shower room with access to balcony/terrace. This period property is very well presented throughout, boasting many original features, presently with gas central heating powered by a combination boiler and is located within the very popular and sought after Ashburnham Triangle Conservation area, which dates back to the late 1700's. Greenwich mainline station and DLR are only moments away on foot and Greenwich Town Centre is a short walk away, where you can enjoy the historic and versatile Greenwich market, all it's quirky shops, bars/restaurants and Cutty Sark. The Royal Park is also moments away where you can enjoy 183 acres of parkland and beautiful outside spaces. A viewing of this amazing home is highly recommended, in order to fully appreciate its attributes.

Belmont Hill, Lewisham, SE13 - Semi Detached House - £800,000

This substantial period property is on the corner of Boyne Road and Belmont Hill, and was one of the first houses built in the Belmont Conservation Area. Inside this semi detached house, you will a very spacious through lounge, access to the rear garden via double doors and a stunning polygonal corner tower commonly known as a 'bell turret'. You will also find a large fitted kitchen/diner including breakfast bar, a guest WC and considerable storage. Upstairs you can enjoy three large double sized bedrooms (one of which has an en suite shower room), a study room, a further double bedroom featuring the impressive turret itself, and a luxurious four piece bathroom suite including Victorian style bath tub and shower cubicle. Finally on the top floor you will find a large loft room that offers ample storage and could be used flexibly as an additional bedroom, office or snug. With so many large windows, natural light simply beams throughout this property, illuminating the striking original features including the wide stairwell, and reflecting off of the beautiful oak and mahogany floors. Convenient for Lewisham DLR and Lewisham and Blackheath's mainline stations.

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Kidbrooke Grove, Blackheath SE3
£2,450pcm & £2,650pcm

A delight to offer two beautiful spacious conversions in the ever sought after tree lined Kidbrooke Grove. Close to both the open heath and within walking distance of Blackheath Village & BR station. The two bedroom conversion forms the entire hall floor and the three bedroom the garden floor. Period features and well maintained communal garden.

Foxes Dale, Blackheath SE3 £1,500pcm

A delightful 3 bedroom Span house located on the prestigious Cator Estate, a short walk away from Blackheath Village and BR station. Open plan lounge/diner with doors to pretty well maintained garden, fitted kitchen, modern bathroom w/c with shower facility.

Dunstable Court, Blackheath SE3 £1,450pcm

A delightful 3 bedroom ground floor apartment located in one of the most sought after roads in Blackheath, close to shopping facilities at Blackheath Standard, Westcombe Park BR station, Greenwich park, the open Heath and Blackheath Village. Benefits include Parquet flooring double glazing and gas central heating.

Tranquil Vale, Blackheath SE3 £1,300pcm

Exceptional location on the edge of Blackheath Village with views across the heath towards All Saints Church. A fabulous, unique studio arranged over two floors, large open plan studio room with vaulted ceiling, modern bathroom w/c kitchen/dining room to ground floor.

heath ESTATES

Thornwood Road SE13 £595,000

Finished to an exceptional standard, this beautiful extended four bedroom Victorian terrace offers excellent family size accommodation, arranged over three floors. A bespoke summer house incorporating children's play room and separate study/work room with windows overlooking the River Quaggy. Many attractive period features including staircase, fireplaces, coving, sash windows wood flooring , With wonderful Manor House Gardens at the end of the road, Blackheath Village within easy reach and close to both Lee and Hither Green stations.

Upwood Road SE12 £239,500

A superb modern two bedroom end of terrace house situated within a very short walk of Lee main line train station and local shops. Accommodation comprises fitted kitchen to front, lounge/diner to rear with direct access to pretty garden, wood floors to ground floor. Two double size bedrooms both with full range of built in wardrobes, modern white bathroom suite with shower facility. Benefits include, double glazing gas, central heating off street parking in allocated parking bay. Ideal first time buy or buy to let investment.

23 Montpelier Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0TJ Tel: 020 8463 9955

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Caterham Road SE13, £450,000 freehold

A large 4 bedroom, 3 reception unmodernised semi detached period house with a south facing garden situated in this quiet & convenient road with virtually no through traffic close to the Station & DLR.

Dartmouth Row SE10, £450,000 leasehold

A gorgeous & beautifully proportioned 2 double bedroom 1st & 2nd floor maisonette. Superb kitchen breakfast room & bathroom. Utility room. Excellent location just off the Heath close to Stations & the DLR.

Lee Road SE3, £355,000 share of freehold

A lovely & very good sized 2 bedroom ground & first floor maisonette. Direct access to a private decked area & commmunal garden. Off street parking. Private entrance. Fantastic location by the Village.

Paget Terrace SE18, £345,000 freehold

A stunning, newly built, highly architectural 3 bedroom double fronted detached house. Superb kitchen breakfast room, bathroom, ensuite shower room & downstairs wc/utility room. Potential for off street parking. Fantastic views.

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Colonnade House SE3 £2,200 pcm
Outstanding Heath front flat.

Cedars Close SE13 £1,600 pcm
Superb 2 bed flat.

Dartmouth House SE10 £1,175 pcm
Stunning 1 bed flat.

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Blackheath Park, SE3 £1,295,000 freehold

A superb & very spacious newly decorated 5 bedroom, 2 reception, 4 storey semi detached house. 2 shower rooms & ensuite bathroom. Double garage with remote control doors. South facing garden. Off street parking for 2 cars. Fantastic Cator Estate location. No chain.

Oakcroft Road, SE13 £1,100,000 freehold

A substantial 4/5 bedroom, 3 storey period semi detached house. Outstanding location by the Heath, Station & DLR. Great garden. Garage. Off street parking. Requires modernising & has masses of potential for extending.

Handen Road, SE12 £950,000 freehold

A gorgeous & very spacious 4 double bedroom, 3 reception, 2 bathroom, 4 storey detached house. 123' landscaped garden. Luxury hand made kitchen breakfast room. Prime Lee Conservation area location by the Station.

Granville Park, SE13 £690,000 share of freehold

An amazing wharehouse style 3 bed apartment. Over 1900 sq ft. Living room measures 35' x 17'. Luxury kitchen, shower room & ensuite bathroom. Secure Off street parking.. Fantastic location just off the Heath by the Station & DLR.

Limes Grove, SE13 £550,000 freehold

A fantastic & very good sized 4 storey period house with a lovely self contained basement flat. Superb 50' south facing garden. Great location close to the Station & DLR.

Taunton Road, SE12 £485,000 freehold

A lovely, extended, 3 bedoom, 3 reception end of terrace period house with a useful loft room. South facing garden. Fantastic Lee Conservation area location close to Stations.

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Lee Road, SE3

Guide £1,795,000 Freehold

A stunning Grade II listed Georgian double-fronted family home circa 1828 approached via a large gravelled drive and benefiting from a beautiful 250ft landscaped rear garden. Situated on Lee Road, the property is less than half a mile from Blackheath Village with its vast array of shops and restaurants and mainline station. Internally the accommodation is of charming family proportions comprising five double bedrooms, two bathrooms plus shower room, elegant 31ft through drawing room, TV room, study, dining room, spacious kitchen, utility room, large garage, splendid rear garden extending to over 250ft in two manageable sections, beautifully maintained and stocked. Many original features including superb windows and original cornicework.

Contact John Payne Blackheath Village **020 8318 1311** or email *blackheath@johnpayne.com*

Guibal Road, SE12

Price £675,000 Freehold

A superb Edwardian four bedroom semi-detached family home with many original features and stylish decoration. Situated in a popular residential road located just off Winn Road with Lee train station with regular train services to Central London close by. The property boasts approximately 130ft rear garden, with off-road parking to the front of the property for numerous cars.

Contact John Payne Lee **020 8852 8633** or email *lee@johnpayne.com*

Blackheath Village Branch
1 Montpelier Vale
Blackheath, SE3 0TA
Tel: 020 8318 1311

Greenwich Branch
227 Greenwich High Road
Greenwich, SE10 8NB
Tel: 020 8858 9911

Westcombe Park Branch
11 Stratheden Parade
Westcombe Park, SE3 7SX
Tel: 020 8858 6101

Lee Branch
119 Burnt Ash Road
Lee, SE12 8RA
Tel: 020 8852 8633

Lettings Branch
39 Montpelier Vale
Blackheath, SE3 0TJ
Tel: 020 8318 0243

Commercial Branch
7 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath, SE3 0RB
Tel: 020 8852 6125

Glenluce Road, SE3

Price £1,035,000 Freehold

A bright and spacious 5 bedroom, 2 bathroom semi detached period property which has been much improved by the current owners. Within a quarter of a mile of Westcombe Park Mainline Station and easy reach of North Greenwich Tube, Greenwich Park and the open heath. Internal viewing is imperative to appreciate the quality of accommodation on offer.

Contact John Payne Westcombe Park **020 8858 6101** or email *westcombepark@johnpayne.com*

Greenwich South Street, SE10

Guide £1,200,000 Freehold

A beautifully presented and rarely available detached double fronted Georgian family house circa 1820, arranged over just three floors and offering a light, spacious, versatile and functional layout. The property comprises four bedrooms, two bathrooms, two large reception rooms, a kitchen-breakfast room and off street parking for one vehicle and is offered with no forward chain.

Contact John Payne Greenwich **020 8858 9911** or email *greenwich@johnpayne.com*

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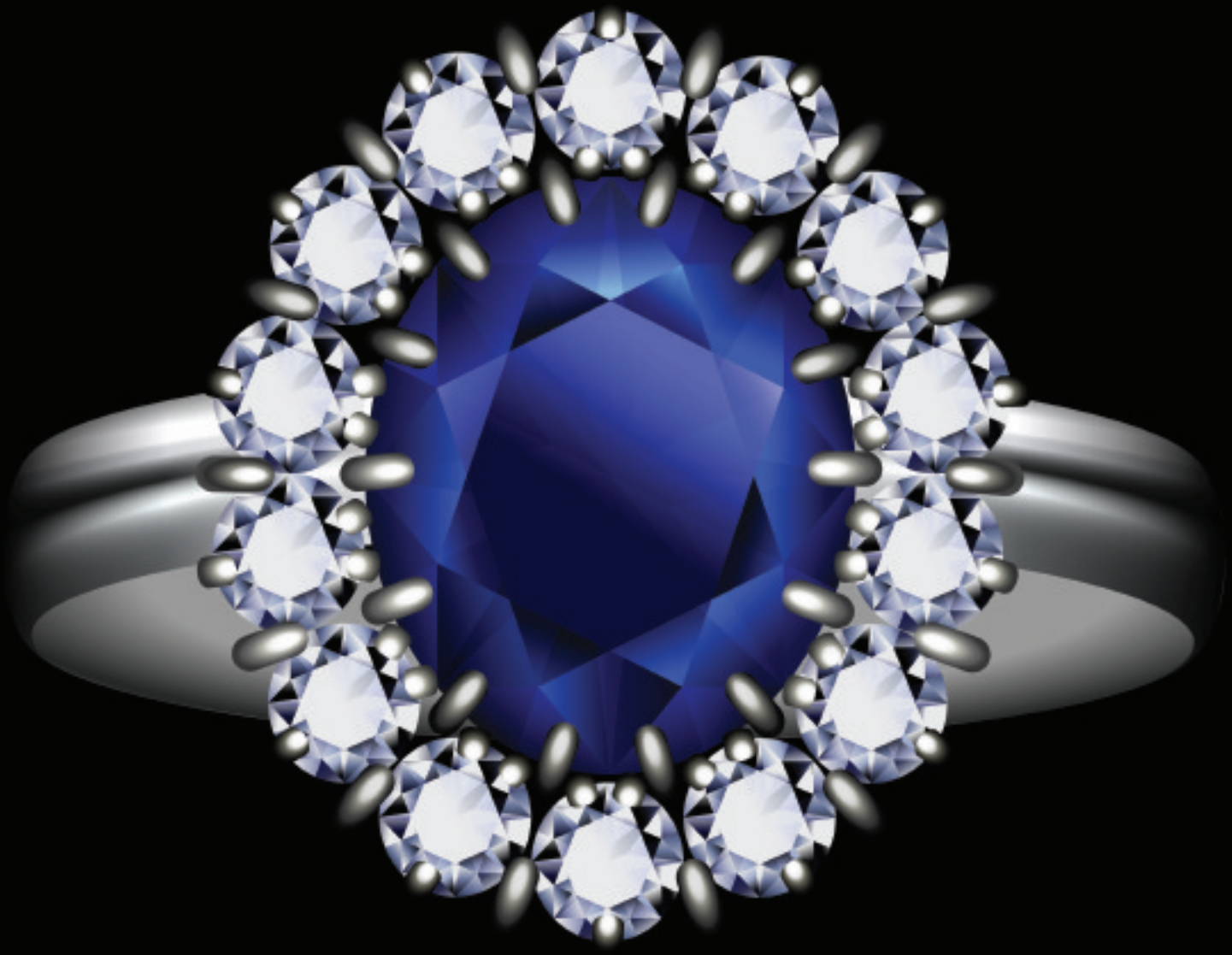

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